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Completion of Saipan traffic project pushed back. PAGE 2
Korea tragedy pushes back COP renovation celebration. PAGE 3

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INSIDE

BUSINESS

Parents wonder what brand names are doing in New York's standardized tests. ➤ PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE

A new portrait of Queen Elizabeth II is unveiled to mark her 88th birthday. ➤ PAGE 21

2 apply for Saipan casino license

» **Total $2M in nonrefundable application fee wire-transferred**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Two investor groups submitted applications to exclusively develop a casino resort on Saipan, along with bank proof of wire transfer of $1 million each in nonrefundable application fee on the deadline date yesterday. This comes seven years after Saipan voters rejected for the second time a casino question on the ballot and only a few weeks after passage and enactment of a controversial Saipan casino gaming legislation.

See CASINO on Page 4

ON THE JOB U.S. MARINE CORPS/SGT. ALISA HELIN

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Dominic Camacho, left, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263 (Reinforced), 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, MV-22 Osprey aircraft crew chief and native of Saipan, and Lance Cpl. Dylan Griffith, right, VMM-263 (Rein.) Osprey crew chief and native of Miller's Creek, N.C., clean a 21-gauge .50-caliber machine gun aboard the USS *Bataan* (LHD 5). The 22nd MEU is deployed with the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group as a theater reserve and crisis response force throughout U.S. Central Command and the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

'Crisostomo DNA matched Romero samples'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» **IT&E records corroborate testimony about Crisostomo using Kintaro cell phone**

A Federal Bureau of Investigation forensic examiner in the nuclear DNA unit at the FBI Lab in Quantico, Virginia, testified yesterday that Joseph A. Crisostomo's DNA matched the DNA obtained from swab samples taken from the vagina of murdered bartender Emerita R. Romero.

Testifying for the CNMI government in the ongoing jury trial of 40-year-old Crisostomo in Superior Court, FBI forensic examiner Susannah Kehl disclosed that she tested the sexual assault kit that the FBI Saipan Office sent to their laboratory and that she concluded the positive presence of semen in Romero's vagina.

James Calderwood, IT&E manager for network services, also took the witness stand yesterday about records of cell phone calls from the numbers of Romero and Alicia Kintaro.

See DNA on Page 4

CHCC: No insurance carrier filed policy for NMI in 2014

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

» **Corporation wary of Obamacare fund's exhaustion; huge deficit feared after 2019**

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. disclosed that no insurance carrier filed a policy with the Department of Commerce for 2014, which could only mean that a similar or higher volume of patients will avail of the government's Medicaid program. That could be a problem as Medicaid faces limited funding after 2019 when Obamacare funds stop flowing to the CNMI.

CHCC board trustee Phillip Mendiola-Long is wary of the grave impact this would have on the islands' sole public hospital, where the bulk of Medicaid patients seek treatment and other medical services.

Since the implementation in March 2010 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly called Obamacare or Affordable Care Act, the CNMI—along with other states

See CHCC on Page 4

IT&E Life in Motion

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Local

DPW: Completion of Saipan traffic project pushed back

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Radiocom personnel install state-of-the-art traffic signals at the Beach Road-Microl intersection in San Jose on Thursday, which is a portion of the Department of Public Works' $1.425-million traffic signal system upgrade project.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Department of Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan said yesterday that the $1.425-million traffic signal system upgrade project for Saipan has been pushed back by two to three months because of the delay in the arrival of materials needed such as the control panel module or casing. Instead of March 2014, the completion date has been extended to May or June, he said.

"But after all the materials arrived, work was continuing. Yes, there was a time extension for completion date. From March, the new target date is last part of May or early June. Hopefully we'd have a ribbon cutting by early June. In the mean time, we ask for the public's patience," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Despite the delay, the government did not incur additional cost in terms of additional funding needed for the project, Sablan said.

"The project cost based on the contract is still $1.425 million," Sablan added.

» RFP soon for Cross Island-Phase III project

Radiocom is the contractor for the DPW traffic signal system upgrade project. It received the notice to proceed on May 31, 2013, and the original project completion date was March 17, 2014. In the past few days, much of the work has been on Beach Road.

The federally-funded project includes removing and replacing traffic signal controllers, including cabinets and pedestrian push buttons. It upgrades traffic signal heads to light emitting diode, or LED, at 19 intersections on Saipan.

It may be recalled that the traffic signal system upgrade project—particularly the capping of road medians with concrete—sparked a bit of a spat between DPW and the Saipan Mayor's Office. The governor had said at the groundbreaking that traffic safety is a main concern, but added that DPW has taken into consideration the mayor's island beautification concerns.

Sonya Dancoe, DPW highway administrator and chief engineer, said DPW is moving on an "aggressive schedule" to make sure all federal highway funds are spent in the CNMI, rather than see any of those funds return to Washington, D.C. and redistributed.

Besides the recent official start of DPW's $147,280 islandwide road marking and signage upgrade project with RNV Construction as contractor, DPW has also been busy with its almost $4-million road improvement project from Kagman to Capital Hill or the Phase II-B of the Cross Island Road/Isa Drive Improvement Project after a two-year snag over procurement protests and appeals. The contractor for this project is Hawaiian Rock Products, which is expected to complete it by October 2014.

Sablan said yesterday that DPW will soon issue a request for proposals for Phase III of the Cross Island/Isa Drive improvement project. This covers the stretch from Capital Hill to the Sadog Tasi-Mobil intersection.

"It could be issued before the end of the month," he added.

Phases I-A and I-B of the project, from Kagman to San Vicente/Dandan area, have already been completed and have now become one of the better roads on Saipan.

JKPL working on a new digital village

The Joeten Kiyu Public Library plans to build a state-of-the-art digital village at the back of the library.

JKPL executive director John Gonzales said they have submitted an application for a Community Development Block Grant worth about $900,000 to the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. for this purpose.

Gonzales said the digital village will be placed on about 8,000 square meters of property at the back of the library. It will be 85-seater with an amphitheater in the center. The digital village will also include multimedia production rooms.

"Both sides of the digital village will include multimedia production rooms that could be used for seminars, and the community can come in and produce their video, radio, audio, and their music in the productions room," Gonzales said.

Gonzales noted that the amphitheater will have high-ceilinged roofs and the rooms will be noise-proof.

"We're doing this so we can teach and truly introduce 21st century technology skills and hopefully the legislators and the governor helps us in completing this project," Gonzales said.

According to Gonzales, this is the second year the library has submitted an application for the block grant.

"We are very much excited to be working with the housing board in developing the digital village with this federal grant," Gonzales said.

He would also be submitting a $500,000 grant application to the U.S Department of Agriculture's Rural Development to buy equipment and furnish the multimedia village.

Gonzales said he would be meeting with Joe Diego from Guam on the grant and furnishings of the multimedia foundation.

JKPL council board chair Mark Rabauliman is excited that Gonzales has already submitted the block grant.

"I really want to see our library grow into the technological era and every little bit helps to achieve those goals," Rabauliman said.

In other news, Gonzales noted that about $12,000 left from the state library's roof repairs will be used to give the men's and women's restrooms at JKPL a facelift. It will also be used to replace the carpets of the library.

"We are going to paint the stairways and ramps for disability access and are working with Northern Marianas Housing Corp. on this," Gonzales said.

"I just need to do the scope of the work and we'll also be putting signs at the parking lot," he added.

Gonzales also said that they would install chains in front because of the use of the library's parking lot during off hours.

"This is for safety hazards, because it will prevent them from parking in unattended areas and from walking on the grassy parts of the library," he said. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

READ-A-LOUD

Lucy Blanco-Maratita reads a book to children at the Tinian Public Library as part of the facility's Read-A-Loud and Arts and Crafts Activity from kindergarten to 3rd grade on April 17, 2014. A total of 72 students, parents, and educators attended the event.

SAFER ROADS
Gov. Eloy S. Inos tries his hand on using a thermoplastic applicator—a state-of-the-art machine spewing retro-reflective road marking—during last Tuesday's "groundbreaking" for a $147,280 road marking and signage upgrade project. Other dignitaries at the event were Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), among others. The Route 31-Chalan Monsignor Guerrero road marking and signage upgrade, being handled by RNV Construction, is one of six major projects of its kind to begin this month. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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Korea tragedy pushes back COP renovation celebration

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

South Korean investment giant E Land is postponing until mid-May its original April celebration to reopen Coral Ocean Point after a $4.4-million renovation, as a show of solidarity to those affected by last week's sinking of a ferry off the coast of South Korea that has so far claimed 64 lives and 238 still missing.

Although 174 people were rescued soon after the vessel sank on April 16, no survivors have since been found.

Tae Ho Kim, general manager of Coral Ocean Point, told Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio about E Land's head office's decision to postpone the reopening celebration of COP's central building and swimming pool, in a letter dated April 18.

"This tragedy took a toll on our country that even our government has cancelled any type of ceremony or celebration, just to focus on the effort to save as many of our children as possible," Kim told Tenorio in a one-page letter, copies of which were also sent yesterday to the Legislature and Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Kim, however, said that, as E Land promised, COP will reopen its central building and swimming pool on Friday, April 25.

Only the re-opening celebration will be moved to mid-May.

"As a matter of fact, in observation of this heartbreaking news, E Land has also postponed the planned grand opening for our new hotel in Jeju Island, which was scheduled on April 17th," Kim told the DPL secretary.

The ferry that capsized on April 16 off the coast of South Korea was headed to Jeju Island, the country's biggest island and one of South Korea's nine provinces.

The island is the country's most popular holiday island, which has become known as the "Hawaii of South Korea."

Meanwhile, back in May, E Land announced plans for a global hotel brand also for Coral Ocean Point, which has been undergoing a $4.4-million renovation. Coral Ocean Point reopened its doors to hotel guests on Dec. 29.

Besides COP, E Land—through its Micronesia Resort Inc.—also owns Pacific Islands Club on Saipan and the former The Palms Resort in San Roque, which will reopen under the global hotel brand Sheraton as early as next year.

Evaluation of GMCA contract due

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A new company may soon be handling the Commonwealth Health Center's collections after the management confirmed plans to solicit bids from collection companies to take care of the hospital's receivables.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña told the board of trustees that the performance of their current collection firm—the Guam Marianas Collection Agency— is up for evaluation. "It's due for re-evaluation … and we're going to analyze their performance. It's about time to go ahead and open the bid [for collection]," said Muña in response to queries on how GMCA has performed in the years it's been doing business with the hospital.

According to board trustee Roy Rios, the board—in its effort to boost the agency's revenue and collection—has to know the effectiveness of the management's existing collection efforts. Rios specifically asked how much GMCA is bringing to CHCC each month. The data was not available last week.

It was learned that GMCA is usually given boxes of files of self-pay patients to bill.

"What we asked them to do is help us on our backlogs [of self-pay patients]," said Muna.

Early last year, a federal team of medical experts recommended getting rid of the hospital's contract with its collection agency, describing it as costly and not fully integrated with the CHCC's business office.

As part of the hospital's sustainability plan, the team said that getting rid of the contract can be done by September 2014, in anticipation of the completion of the revenue cycle automation then proposed by the corporation. The same team recommended that self-pay debt collection be returned to the business office.

GMCA currently does the billing and collection work for the hospital. It uses its own financial system and only gets paid when it actually collects money for the hospital. GMCA's contract provides a 25-percent fee for what it collects and a 10-percent fee for billing works.

During Thursday's continuation of the board meeting, vice chair Pete Dela Cruz reiterated his view about the corporation's "poor collection efforts."

Based on the financial data presented last week, Dela Cruz said that there's $17 million in collectibles due the healthcare agency.

Target

In her annual report submitted to the board last week, Muña conceded that "there are still missed opportunities for collections and revenue improvement."

She bared plans to improve the collections and fill the revenue gaps. These include assessing the current revenue cycle operation flows and current business staffing; standardizing productivity; improving billing and coding and charge capture workflow; improving relationship/contract with insurance companies; and re-evaluating the charge master, among others.

Muna also revealed that a request for proposal for the revenue cycle improvement project, which is federally funded, is scheduled for re-announcement this week.

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CASINO

From Page 1

Gov. Eloy S. Inos' promise of restoring the 25-percent cut in retirees' pension within 90 days from March 21 is now a step closer to reality, with the initial payment of $30 million in casino license fee due by May 5.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the two applications received are from Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. and Best Sunshine International Ltd.

"It's a good day for the Commonwealth," Demapan told reporters in an impromptu news briefing past 4:30pm yesterday at the governor's office building on Capital Hill.

Although the administration has yet to disclose any information about the two investors, including where they are based, sources said they are likely from Hong Kong.

The governor, in a statement, said the total deposit of $2 million "confirms the viability of the proposal to spur economic development through a highly regulated development plan."

Inos said this development is "not just about casinos" but also about construction of new hotels, expansion of infrastructure, and the creation of thousands of jobs.

"The issue that is the most appealing is that it will provide an economic future for many families, increased demand for real property, and many business opportunities for local residents. We will be closely reviewing these applications to ensure that they meet our objectives and protect the long-term interest of our residents," Inos said.

When the governor convened his Cabinet yesterday morning, no application for a Saipan casino license had been received yet. But by 4:30pm, the administration announced receiving two applications.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said yesterday he was initially hoping that "three or four" investors will participate in the application process.

"But I am happy that we have at least two. This will lead to economic activities. We can now better address the issues before us," he said.

Torres said that based on the names of the applicants released yesterday, they were not the ones that lawmakers met with in Hong Kong months ago.

What's next?

Demapan said the submission of the applications and the accompanying funds is the first step in the casino development process as identified in Public Law 18-38.

The next step, he said, is for the deposit of $30 million in escrow by May 5, and the Lottery Commission's approval or denial of the applications by June 19.

The application requirements were quite extensive and required applicants to submit detailed information concerning their financial capability, experience in gaming, development plan, and a three-year business plan.

Demapan said the Lottery Commission will promptly and thoroughly review the applications submitted.

The Lottery Commission consists of the attorney general, the Finance secretary, the Commerce secretary, and the Public Safety commissioner.

These individuals will also call on experts in the field of hotel development, tourism, law enforcement, and gaming to assist in evaluating the applications.

Public contribution

Demapan said one of the key things that the Lottery Commission will also be reviewing is the investors' "public contribution" plan.

"The public contribution is going to play a major role because we like to see in what ways, significantly, can the community benefit from this investment," he said.

Demapan, in an interview, said the fact that there's more than one submission "is proof that there's an interest for this industry."

"It's the hope of this administration that this industry will thrive and produce the benefits that we were hoping for when we pushed for this proposal because we did this solely for the benefit of restoring retirees' [pension] cuts, of giving interest payments to active members, and the ultimate goal is when the business gross receipt tax starts rolling in to help households with their LEAC payments," Demapan said.

LEAC stands for levelized energy adjustment clause, one of the two components of a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customer's bill primarily for fuel expenses. The other component is the non-fuel expenses. The administration will use portions of casino revenues to help reduce CUC customers' utility rates.

Casino Commission appointees

The administration's receipt of two applications came four days after the governor appointed three individuals from Saipan to the Commonwealth Casino Regulatory Commission, which is separate from the Lottery Commission.

Inos appointed to the Casino Commission former senator Maria Frica T. Pangelinan, businessman David C. Sablan, and former Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief financial officer Alvaro A. Santos on April 17.

The three appointments are subject to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's advice and consent.

The Tinian and Rota mayors also have to appoint a member from their islands subject to their respective legislative delegation's advice and consent.

In an interview after his Cabinet meeting yesterday, the governor said when it became clear that he was looking for candidates for Casino Commission members, Pangelinan, Sablan, and Santos "expressed their interest."

Inos said from his standpoint, the three are "very qualified," and with lots of business and finance experience.

"Like I said, they expressed interest. I was looking for folks who would do a good job. They all have business degrees and they're prequalified, I should say, and I'm happy with those folks," the governor added.

Each commission member will be paid $40,000 for the first year of the commission's existence.

After the first year, they will be compensated at $20 an hour for official commission meetings attended.

The commission will promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary to fulfill the law's intent, policies, and purposes.

The commission's regulatory jurisdiction is confined to casinos licensed under Public Law 18-43, which amended the law on casino gaming on Saipan. House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) is the main author of the casino bill, along with Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan).

It's the Lottery Commission, though, that has the discretion to grant an exclusive casino license on Saipan, not the Casino Commission.

ERRATUM

In the story published on April 18. 2014, titled "CUC new base rate takes effect" the per kWh charge for residential customers consuming 351-1,200 kWh a month was incorrectly stated as $0.970 per kWh. The correct charge is $0.0970 per kWh. Our apologies.

CHCC

From Page 1

and territories—was able to expand its Medicaid program as a result of the additional funding provided by the law during the transition period.

Corporation CEO Esther Muña told the board that the only reason why the hospital is getting a big chunk of Medicaid money right now is because of these added funds under Obamacare. She cautioned the board, however, that come 2019, CHCC will go back to getting limited funding from Medicaid because of the reinstatement of the cap, which is $6.5 million for the CNMI.

"At present, Medicaid regulations state that we have the cap, which is $6.5 million, and anything above that cap basically touch the ACA funding. That's why ACA funding keeps reducing because they pay us $10 million in a year. The problem with this is: whether the funding [for ACA] is exhausted or not, we will go back to the cap in 2019," Muña said Thursday.

She pointed out that this impact is vital to developing the corporation's strategic plan.

"This is something we need to think about and plan because now it's benefiting us, but how about after 2019?" Muña asked.

The ACA was enacted to insure all Americans and reduce the costs of healthcare, including regulating the premium rates of health insurance carriers.

According to Mendiola-Long, it's the intention of ACA to get some higher income thresholder Medicaid recipients to transfer into a universal care pool, which the CNMI doesn't have.

"We don't have that pool here and the problem is, no insurance company wants to come to our area because the CNMI doesn't have the amount of people necessary to make that universal healthcare coverage profitable for them to stay here. This is why nobody filed their policy this year [at Commerce]," said Mendiola-Long.

There are at least five major insurance carriers in the CNMI, all of which had cited concerns about the complex implementation of the federal health law in the Commonwealth.

And because the transition of Medicaid recipients to private insurance didn't happen, Mendiola-Long fears that the Medicaid program will be the only one handling an increasing number of beneficiaries with lesser funding to operate.

Medicaid is a federal/state program that requires 55-45 matching funds. The program nearly had 16,000 clients last year. About four years ago it had about 10,000 clients.

Mendiola-Long cited as an example the entry of a new casino that may want to procure insurance for their employees but could not do so.

"Even if you want it, without a policy prior to 2014, you can't get it and there's no policy approved by Commerce right now," he said.

DNA

From Page 1

Kintaro testified last week that Crisostomo borrowed her cell phone in the early morning of Feb. 5, 2012. IT&E records revealed that when Kintaro's cell phone was used, the originating cell tower for the call was at Palms Resort in San Roque.

Palms Resort is located across the former La Fiesta Mall where Romero's body was found by FBI agents on Feb. 7, 2012.

In her testimony, FBI forensic examiner Kehl first explained about DNA and how to extract, test, and compare it.

Kehl said that in Romero's case, the FBI Saipan Office made two submissions to the FBI Lab—one from FBI special agent Joe Auther and then from FBI special agent Haejun Park.

Kehl said she did not detect blood on a metal door taken from La Fiesta Mall.

Kehl said she also did not detect blood on the items taken from the rental Toyota Corolla with license plate ACG-246 that was allegedly driven by Crisostomo. The items were four floor mats and swabs obtained from the dashboard and driver's side headrest. She said a headband found inside the car had a mixture of DNA from three or more individuals.

Kehl said she also tested the sexual assault kit taken from Romero. Prior to the autopsy conducted on Romero on Feb. 7, 2012, Commonwealth Health Center doctor and staff administered a rape test-kit on her body and swab samples were taken from the mouth, rectum, and vagina and submitted to the FBI for analysis.

Kehl said in the vaginal swab, the first test was positive for the presence of semen, while the confirmatory test was also positive for semen.

Kehl said no sperm was detected in the rectum swab.

Of the two oral swabs taken, Kehl said that one oral swab had the presence of semen, but was not confirmed during the second test.

No semen was detected in the second oral swab, she said.

Kehl said she received Crisostomo's DNA sample taken from a bottle of water that he drank, as well as samples collected from inside his cheek.

Kehl said the DNA from the water bottle was slightly degraded.

Kehl said upon comparing Crisostomo's known DNA samples and the vaginal swab, the results of the nuclear DNA examinations indicate the presence of two or more individuals.

The forensic examiner said the results show that the major DNA contributor from the swab was Crisostomo.

Kehl explained that three individuals mean Crisostomo, Romero, plus possibly another one.

"One DNA cannot be accounted from Romero and Crisostomo," she said.

Kehl said the third is potential, but that it could not mean there's another third person because the findings on the minor contributor is inconclusive.

When asked by assistant attorney general Margo Brown-Badawy if DNA samples were also taken from other persons besides Crisostomo, Kehl said that saliva swabs were obtained from Cheyenne Sablan and Ivan Castro, and an inside cheek swab was taken from Taj Van Buuren.

Kehl said the DNA tests of all three—Sablan, Castro, and Van Buuren—tested negative and they were excluded as contributors.

Sablan is the boyfriend of Crisostomo's sister, Annie. Van Buuren is Romero's boyfriend. It's the first time Castro's name was mentioned in the case.

To show how rare Crisostomo's DNA is, Kehl said her calculations show that there's one in 136 trillion population from African-Americans; one in 960 million population from Chamorro, and 1 in 1.8 billion from the Filipino population.

Defense counsel Janet H. King will cross-examine Kehl when the trial resumes today, Tuesday, at 8:30am.

IT&E's Calderwood testified that upon receiving a request, he compiled the phone call records of Romero and Kintaro that were made between Feb. 4 and 5, 2012.

Calderwood said that Romero's phone number was 989-4425, a Docomo number; while Kintaro's is 788-5324, an IT&E number.

When asked by Badawy about a specific call from the call data from Kintaro's number, Calderwood said that 788-5324 (Kintaro) made a call on Feb. 5, 2012, at 6am and that the originating cell tower was from Palms Resort.

Calderwood said the cell tower from Palms Resort covers La Fiesta Mall and parts of Marpi or the northern part of the island.

Calderwood's testimony and phone records corroborate Kintaro's testimony on Thursday that Crisostomo borrowed her cell phone in the early morning on Feb. 5, 2012, and that he called her at 6am that same day, asking her to pick up his sister Annie, Cheyenne Sablan, and Albert Deleon Guerrero at Piano's Poker in Garapan because he was busy.

Kintaro had also testified that Crisostomo, who "acted weird," was then driving a rental Toyota Corolla car.

Calderwood said that there were several calls made from Romero's number in the early morning of Feb. 5, 2012, and that the originating cell tower was from Hafadai Beach Hotel.

This corroborates testimony of witnesses that Romero made some phone calls to Van Buuren and a taxi driver before she boarded a car in Garapan.

Calderwood agreed with King that based on the record, 788-5324 (Kintaro's number) made a 911 call on Feb. 5, 2012 at 6:48:37.

Calderwood agreed with King that 788-5324 made several calls from 7:46am all the way to 8:30am on Feb. 5 using the originating tower in Lower Base, and from 8:57am to 9:02am using the Palms Resort originating cell tower.

Department of Corrections Commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas also testified yesterday that on Feb. 14, 2012, he interviewed Crisostomo in his office at DOC.

Mafnas said it was Crisostomo who asked to see him about Romero's case so he accepted it. At the time, Mafnas was also the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

Mafnas said he read Crisostomo's constitutional rights during the interview that lasted an hour and 15 minutes.

Mafnas said Crisostomo admitted that he was driving a rental car in the area in Garapan, where Romero was last seen boarding a car in the early morning of Feb. 5, 2012.

Mafnas said that Crisostomo, however, denied involvement in the killing of Romero.

Mafnas said that Crisostomo told him that on Feb. 5, 2012, he was in Garapan, Marpi, Bird Island, the La Fiesta area, Gualo Rai, Chalan Kanoa, and Koblerville.

Mafnas said Crisostomo stated that he was at a poker area near the former Call-A-Ride because he was meeting a buyer of methamphetamine or "ice."

Mafnas said he recorded the interview. He said he did not write a report about the interview because there was already a recording of it.

Local bill seeks to fund Rota casino commish with $200K

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) has prefiled a local bill appropriating $200,000 for the Rota Casino Gaming Commission in fiscal year 2014, more than half of which—almost $134,000—are for the unpaid salaries of former and current commissioners and executive directors. There is currently no operating casino on Rota.

Santos prefiling House Local Bill 18-52 follows the Rota Municipal Council's meeting with the Rota Casino Gaming Commission chair approving and transmitting the commission's 2014 operational budget.

Of the total amount, $133,955 is for the salaries of six past and present commissioners and executive directors: $39,100 for Ephrem S. Taimanao; $37,500 for Laura I. Manglona; $21,340 for Kelvin O. Hocog; $17,130 for Abelina T. Mendiola; $10,965 for Vicente M. Atalig; and $7,920 for Alfredo Antolin.

The other $20,000 is for KNT charter flights between Japan and Rota, and another $20,000 for the Torres Brothers Law Firm.

The bill also appropriates $14,545 for office supplies and operation; $10,000 for communication; and $1,500 for the website.

While there is no Rota casino industry to speak of, Santos earlier said that Rota continues to incur debt for the commission's salaries, supplies, telephone, power and water bills, among other things.

Right now, the only operating casino in the CNMI is the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino on Tinian. Saipan is also on its way to having a casino after yesterday's submission of two applications to exclusively develop a casino resort on Saipan.

Military scales down, modifies Guam buildup plan

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The military's revised proposal for a buildup in Guam calls for less population growth and locating a Marine Corps live-fire training range on an Air Force base instead of the site of an ancient village.

The *Pacific Daily News* reports the U.S. territory's population would expand by about 10,000 residents at the peak of the buildup instead of nearly 80,000 under earlier plans.

Construction would progress more slowly, taking 13 years instead of seven.

The Navy released a draft supplemental environmental impact statement for the project on Friday.

Local leaders and residents had expressed concern the earlier plans would have negatively affected infrastructure, the environment and society on the small island.

Under the new plan, 5,000 Marines and 1,300 dependents would move to Guam from Okinawa, Japan. The old plan included 8,600 Marines and 9,000 dependents.

The leaner buildup stems from a revised agreement between the U.S. and Japan in 2012. Some of the Marines will go to Australia and Hawaii instead of Guam.

The new proposed site for the live-fire training complex is at Northwest Field in Yigo, which is part of Andersen Air Force Base. Before, the military had been eyeing more than 1,000 acres of private or local government land near the ancient village of Pagat, triggering an outcry in Guam and a lawsuit.

Marine housing would be built within the Navy base on the island, instead of civilian land in Dededo.

Legislative minority leader Sen. Tony Ada, a buildup supporter, said a quick review of the documents indicates "concerns expressed by our people have been given due consideration."

Democratic Sen. Frank Aguon Jr., chairman of the Guam Legislature's committee on the buildup, said he's still carefully reading through the document and it was too early for him to offer his reaction. He's inviting residents to participate in his committee's round-table discussion on April 28.

The military also has scheduled public meetings next month to hear from residents.

A public comment period is now open until June 17, 2014 (Chamorro Standard Time). The public may submit comments using the following methods:

1) U.S. Postal Service to:
Joint Guam Program Office (Forward)
P.O. Box 153246
Santa Rita, GU 96915

2) Digitally at the SEIS website, http://guambuildupeis.us

3) In person through verbal or written comments at one of our public meetings.

Formal opportunities for the public to provide input will be provided at three public meetings in Guam. ***(With PR)***

$45M hangar project for OK'd

PEARL HARBOR—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific awarded a $45.4 million firm-fixed-price task order under a multiple award construction contract on March 27 to Guam MACC Builders A JV, a large business of Honolulu, Hawaii, for the design and construction of a high bay maintenance hangar at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

The hangar will be used to support forward operations and maintenance functions for the Unmanned Aircraft System MQ-4C BAMS platform. The MQ-4C work to be performed includes interior and enclosed maintenance space to accomplish scheduled inspections, airframe repairs, pre-and post-flight operations, as well as technical order compliance and aircraft modifications.

"The addition of maintenance and hangar facilities at Andersen Air Force Base for the Navy's MQ-4C Triton Unmanned Aircraft System further demonstrates the investment being made by the Department of Defense to increase our capability in the Marianas as we rebalance to the Pacific," said Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne, commander, Joint Region Marianas.

The contract also contains two unexercised options, which if exercised would increase cumulative task order value to $46.7 million. Work will be performed at the Andersen Air Force Base, Guam and is expected to be completed by April 2016.

This contract was competitively procured via the Navy Electronic Commerce Online website, with six proposals received for this task order. ***(USN)***

NAVFAC awards $25M to improve emergent repair facility in Guam

PEARL HARBOR—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific awarded a $25.69 million firm-fixed-price task order under a multiple award construction contract on April 10 to Guam MACC Builders A JV, a large business of Honolulu, Hawaii, for the design and construction of an emergent repair facility at Naval Base Guam.

"An improved emergent repair facility equips Naval Base Guam with a more robust submarine repair capability and provides first class support to homeported and forward deployed vessels," said Naval Base Guam Commanding Officer Capt. Mike Ward. "The awarding of this contract makes significant steps to further support the fleet now and, more importantly, into the future."

The work to be performed includes the design and construction of a low rise, two-story, building that will be attached to the existing emergent repair facility. The project will expand the existing two-story reinforced concrete structure with pile foundation, reinforced concrete walls and roof structure, and beam column frame. In addition, built-in equipment will include a passenger/ freight elevator, an overhead crane and an emergency diesel generator and a radon mitigation system.

The contract also contains one unexercised option, which if exercised would increase cumulative task order value to $28 million. Work will be performed in Santa Rita, Guam, and is expected to be completed by May 2016. ***(USN)***

IN FIRST ANNUAL REPORT:

Muña lauds hospital's progress under her term

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Despite its many challenges, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has made significant strides in the last 12 months of its operation, including the recertification of the public hospital's laboratory unit and the hiring of more medical staff.

Interim corporation CEO Esther Muña highlighted these accomplishments in her first annual report, which covers the period from when she began serving the position on April 30, 2013.

In the seven-page document submitted to the board and orally reported during last week's meeting, Muña cited the achievements recorded in both the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) certifications.

"At appointment of the interim CEO, CHCC was still on the termination state from CMS for Hospital & Dialysis and revocation state for its certification of its laboratory from CLIA. Maintaining certification is critical since CHCC receives approximately $22 million annually from the Medicare and Medicaid programs," stated Muña's report, providing more details about the CMS revisit and resurvey done in September 2013.

She disclosed that CHC was granted another extension up to May 27, 2014, to fully comply with the condition of participation with CMS. Although the termination status was not removed, the condition level citations was reduced from 13 to nine and CMS noted that, with its current leadership, they see that CHC is in a trajectory to eventually succeed. Plans for corrections are due April 25 this year.

The dialysis revisit, Muña said, also gave CHC an opportunity to revisit its disaster contingency plans while ensuring patient rights were respected.

"A revisit from CMS-CLIA, however, was more successful and CHC Lab was granted a CLIA recertification up to 2016," Muña said.

She also cited the reorganization of the hospital organization chart that, among others, gave the hospital administrator the authority to implement systematic changes and placed the hospital nursing director directly under its supervision.

Recruitment and retention of personnel was also highlighted, including the hiring of pharmacists and respiratory therapists.

Muña said the internal medicine physicians count increased from two to five while three doctors were added to the pediatric clinic's two. The hiring of more nurse practitioners in the outpatient clinics and a lab/pathologist at the lab clinic were also noted as significant achievements.

"The discharge planning process was changed to become a more multi-disciplinary process" resulting in CHC successfully reducing readmissions by 5 percent immediately after the change, she said.

Muña included on her list of accomplishments the successful implementation of the electronic health record system that gave the hospital a $1.4 million incentive.

Muña said that CHCC was also able to work out agreements with Medical Missionaries and have specialized care provided in the CNMI.

"Medical missionaries were welcomed in dermatology, oral maxilla facial surgery, and otolaryngology and allowed for patients to be treated by these specialists with minimal cost to CHCC. Orthopedic surgery is also available during emergencies with a contract with an orthopedic surgeon in Guam," said Muña.

Also in the annual report are the CEO's plans as well as challenges of the corporation.

In accordance with Public Law 16-51, the CEO has to submit an annual report to the Legislature and the governor that includes current strategic plans for meeting the healthcare needs of the CNMI.

Guam senator combines wage hike, tax cut

GUAM—Answering Gov. Eddie Calvo's call to compromise, Sen. Mike San Nicolas introduced on Friday Bill 322-32 to raise the minimum wage in Guam by $0.95 per year for three years, as proposed by Vice Speaker BJ Cruz in Bill 316, and lower the Business Privilege Tax from 4 percent to 3.8 percent as proposed by Calvo.

"Raising the wages of workers will put more money in their pockets. They'll be able to afford to do more, buy more and invest more," said Calvo in editorial published in the *Pacific Daily News.*

"I appreciate that Governor Calvo and all the Republican senators recognize that both employees and employers are a vital part of our community and this compromise helps both our businesses and the hard workers that make them successful," said San Nicolas.

"This compromise between both parties and both branches of government shows that when government works together, we can all win," said San Nicolas.

Calvo's proposal would cut Business Privilege Taxes by an estimated $12.9 million, which Calvo intends to help businesses afford the minimum wage increase. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Celia Lamkin, seated left, Rev. Father Rey Rosal, seated center, and Ron Lamkin, seated right, take a group photo after providing free health services to the community on Easter Sunday at the San Jose Parish on April 20, 2014.

103 participate in free health screening

About 103 community members availed of free health services organized by the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance Marianas Chapter at the San Jose Church last Sunday, April 20.

The program, which started at 7:30am and ended at 11am, provided blood pressure checks, blood sugar test, weight, height, and body mass index determinations. Free brochures on disease prevention were handed out by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' National Institute of Health.

USP4GG Marianas Chapter chair Dr. Celia Lamkin said the event had a great turnout. "The participants were very grateful and satisfied with the health awareness and free health screening we provided on Easter Sunday," she said.

Rev. Fr. Rey Rosal was very grateful to the USP4GG Marianas Chapter for providing free health services to his parishioners and other members of the community.

"During the Holy Week, we focused on our spiritual nourishment and after, the faithful should attend to their physical health," Rosal said.

Lamkin's husband, Ron Lamkin, performed the body mass index for participants, while other volunteers provided health clinic services.

"Due to the poor economy of the CNMI, a free health screening is very useful because many patients cannot afford to go to doctors. Members of the community rarely know that they have high blood sugar. This provides them with the awareness of their own health issues," Ron Lamkin said.

Participants who had high blood sugar were advised to visit their family doctors.

Ron Lamkin said that many were surprised to learn that their blood pressure and blood sugar were high and were happy to learn that these health issues can be controlled through lifestyle changes and medications.

"Since hypertension and diabetes are silent killers, many people are unaware that they have health problems," he said.

The event sponsors were Ron and Dr. Celia Lamkin, Charles Lamkin, Jess Yumul of YCO Corp., and Nhitz Manalo.

Dr. Lamkin said she is grateful to the sponsors and volunteers. "I would like to thank Rev. Fr. Rey Rosal, San Jose Parish Church, the sponsors, volunteers and members of USP4GG Marianas Chapter, parishioners, and the Saipan community for their support, help, and collaboration," she said. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

Judge denies man's motion to suspend extraditability order

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has denied a motion to suspend her order for Korean businessman Jae Boong Kim's extraditability pending review of his appeal.

Manglona said there obviously may be irreparable injury if her order is not stayed as Kim may be extradited and appellate review frustrated. But given her review of the merits in both the extradition proceeding and the habeas proceeding, Kim stands little if any chance of succeeding on the merits, Manglona said.

"The court therefore does not exercise its discretion to grant a stay pending appeal," said the judge in denying Kim's motion to stay.

The U.S. government, on behalf of the Republic of Korea government, has filed two extradition cases against Kim for offenses committed entirely in Korea.

Last October and November, Manglona issued a certification of extraditability for Kim in connection with the two cases.

Kim, through counsel Stephen Woodruff, recently filed an emergency motion to stay extraditability, citing that this relief is necessary on an emergency basis because Kim's surrender to officers or agents of the Republic of Korea and transportation out of the United States and out of the jurisdiction of the U.S. courts would appear to be imminent, and could occur at any time.

Woodruff said this is in light of the court's denial of Kim's petition for writ of habeas corpus and denial of his prior stay motions in the two cases.

Woodruff said such surrender could occur at any time and would result in irreparable harm to Kim by depriving him of the due process of law to which he is entitled, specifically appellate review of the court's denial of his petition for writ of habeas corpus.

In denying the motion to stay, citing a Ninth Circuit precedent, Manglona said there is no appeal from an extradition order by the government or by the defendant. Manglona said a review instead must be sought via a petition for writ of habeas corpus.

Manglona said she already issued an extradition certifying Kim as extraditable and that she has also reviewed this matter on a petition for writ of habeas corpus, where she again found extradition proper.

Manglona said she denied a certificate of appealability in those habeas proceedings.

Without one from her court, the judge said, the only way Kim can appeal the case is if he obtains one from a circuit judge.

Kim contends that his appeal of a habeas proceeding is as of right and that he need not obtain a certificate of appealability.

Manglona said the Ninth Circuit disagrees.

Manglona said she declines to stay these proceedings pending a circuit judge's grant of discretionary review.

Federal agents arrested Kim in May 2013 on Saipan based on two outstanding arrest warrants in South Korea for allegedly defrauding two women of about 530.8 million won ($477,632) and defrauding some Korean nurses by falsely promising them jobs in Guam.

Woodruff earlier stated that Kim admits that he borrowed money from the two persons described in the complaint, but with the intent to fully repay them.

Tan Holdings to charter, support Boys Scouts NMI District

The Boy Scouts of America CNMI District will be revived after securing a commitment from Tan Holdings to support and charter the organization.

District chair Wayne Gillespie told *Saipan Tribune* said this new effort to revive the charter will start small to ensure that everything is in place before recruitment of members begins.

"We will do things in proper order and are going to have a trained adult leadership in place and now that we have our unit chartering organization we will be putting the kids in place after," he said. "I want to thank Tan Holdings and Uncle Dave [Sablan] for their support."

Tan Holdings corporate consultant Dave M. Sablan Sr. said that three companies within the Tan Holdings organization will be volunteering their leadership.

"From the three organizations we will spread out," Sablan said.

The three organizations so far comprise four volunteers: Argie Buensalido of CTSI Logistics, Frank Cabrera and Melvin Masga of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and Kinty Elieisar of D&Q.

Gillespie said they have several volunteer positions open at the district level, not just scoutmasters. They need merit badge counselors to be instructors for the training of the scouts and there are now six positions available.

"We welcome women, too. All of our positions are open to women. They can lead Boy Scout troops or take any position in the district. We would like to see more women get involved and would love to see it happen," Gillespie said.

He described ideal adult leaders as those who have strong characters who love to mentor children, can walk the talk, are honest, have no temper problems, and have patience.

Gillespie noted that each unit would elect a troop leader and they will decide what is the meeting or agenda going to be and that each unit will be involved in community activities.

"We base our scouts on grade range, which will be from 1st to 12th grade," he said.

Gillespie said that at age 11 there is a transition between Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

According to him, the very thing about scouting is that the local unit and the chartering organization have a lot of power on issues that they would want to do.

Gillespie also said that they are not required to wear their uniforms.

"Each unit can choose whether they want to use the official uniform or design one of its own and sometimes you will see Cub Scouts wearing different colored uniforms," Gillespie said.

There is no set number of scouts under a division. "It depends on what the unit wants to do and how many scouts the adult leadership think they can handle," he said.

Gillespie noted that the Boy Scouts might be joining this year's Liberation Day.

He blamed the demise of the old chapter on a wrong strategy. "Everybody had their hearts in the right place and I would like to offer an apology to the district for the things that we did not foresee happening," Gillespie said.

He said that they had some children who expected to get into scouting but were not able to because the adult leadership did not materialize.

"It was a terrible mistake and we are going back to fix it, by not going in the order we used to but to make sure that we have the sponsoring, chartering, and the organization first," Gillespie said. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

CATHY CEPEDA

From left to right, Argie Buensalido of CTSI Logistics, Kinty Elieisar of D&Q, Melvin Masga of Fiesta Resort Saipan, CNMI Boy Scouts of America district chair Pastor Wayne Gillespie, Frank Cabrera of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and Tan Holdings corporate consultant David M. Sablan Sr.

$30K budget for new CUC board approved

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The four-member board of directors of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. was given a little over $30,000 budget in fiscal year 2014 to carry out its fiduciary duties for the utility agency.

Based on the records obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, a total of $30,940 is allocated to the board's function and includes allowances to conduct training for members.

Of the board's budget endorsed for fiscal year 2014, the following areas were considered:

- honorarium of $3,600 for the four members amounting to $60 per member. The amount is inclusive of the extra meeting set each month.
- professional development and conferences for members, allocated at $8,400 and $2,740 respectively. Airfare for off-island members as well as ticket fare for conferences are also budgeted at $7,200 and $6,000 respectively for the 12-month period.
- For training, the CUC board is authorized a budget ceiling of $2,300, while $700 is allocated for supplies.

During last week's meeting, CUC board chair David J. Sablan disclosed that the board, in consideration of the multiple issues surrounding CUC operations, intends to conduct an extra meeting each month on top of the regular monthly meeting.

Sablan reminded colleagues—vice chair Diego Songao and members Adelina Roberto and Chris Concepcion—of the cash flow situation of the agency and the need for prudent spending of the board's budget. The chairman pointed out that allocation for members' training was considered in the budget to equip each member with knowledge about the board's fiduciary duties.

For fiscal year 2015, which begins on Oct. 1, the CUC board was proposed a budget of $32,760—slightly higher than the current board allocation.

The CUC board is the decision-making body of the utilities agency, which relies on its own revenues and collections from customers for its operational funding.

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WHO sets priorities in wake of Solomon floods

In this Friday, April 4, 2014 photo, a building teeters on the edge of a river in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

AP

HONIARA—When the massive flood hit a small community in a palm plantation in Guadalcanal Province in Solomon Islands, the family of Samson Tokara trooped to the Okea evacuation centre to seek refuge. In the rush to the evacuation, he was not able to bring much of his belongings, but he grabbed the most important people in his life: his wife Jenlin and 2-month-old baby Samantha.

Samson's family was just some of the 52,000 people affected by the flash floods that hit Honiara and the rest of Guadalcanal province on April 3-5, 2014. The government declared a state of emergency in Honiara and Guadalcanal provinces and has set up 32 evacuation centers that catered to the needs of more than 9,000 people.

"Our basic needs were provided in the evacuation center and I am thankful for the support provided to us by different organizations," said Samson. "However, it was a temporary shelter and we needed to go home to clean our house and rebuild our lives. I have a baby and I need to make sure her needs are met."

Riding a motorized farm vehicle borrowed from his relative, Samson and his family went back to their home on April 12.

Health response

The floods in Solomon Islands disrupted the delivery of health services in the capital city of Honiara and Guadalcanal Province. Although the basic life-saving services have been dispensed, the health concerns are huge and complicated.

The World Health Organization is closely working with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services at the central and provincial levels in coordinating the health response to this emergency and in ensuring that the health services provided by partners and other organizations go to where it is needed. WHO also assists the government in the development of the Humanitarian Action Plan for Health. As part of the Pacific Humanitarian Team, WHO leads the health cluster response and coordinates with partners in the provision of the United Nationwide support.

Technical specialists from various parts of the world have flown in to Honiara to support MHMS in responding to health sector needs including preventive and curative services, public health, vector control, food safety and nutrition, strengthening surveillance system, conducting risk assessments, and risk communication. It also supported the MHMS in developing the health facility assessments tools and in conducting the health facility assessments.

Continuing health needs

Based on the initial results of the health assessment by WHO and MHMS, the principal health issues are lack of food, water, sanitation and hygiene facilities as well as food- and water-borne illnesses. People are also concerned with food safety, malnutrition, especially of infants and young children that could potentially lead to increased and more severe diseases.

The respiratory infections associated with overcrowding, especially acute respiratory infections in children are also a concern. Leptospirosis from exposure to rodent excreta or contaminated water; and vector-borne diseases, especially malaria and dengue are major health threats. Mental health and psychosocial services are also necessary.

Health priorities

Given the health issues, the immediate priorities are on the provision of nutritious food and safe drinking water. It is an immediate need to also provide appropriate sanitation, shelter, and other essential non-food items as well as provision of medicines and medical supplies.

In order to prevent possible outbreaks, it is critical to strengthen surveillance system for infectious diseases and implement measures to prevent vector-borne diseases. Keeping the public informed through enhanced risk communication to the public is also important.

"The health and nutrition needs of the people on-the-ground are significant, and the work involved is massive," says Dr Audrey Aumua, Officer-in-Charge of the WHO Office in Solomon Islands. "WHO remains committed in working with the Government to ensure that health services are provided to people in evacuation centers, and those who are back in their homes." ***(WHO)***

Sign-up begins for USDA disaster assistance programs

WASHINGTON—Eligible farmers and ranchers can now sign up for U.S. Department of Agriculture disaster assistance programs restored by passage of the 2014 Farm Bill.

"We implemented these programs in record time and kept our commitment to begin sign-up today," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "To ensure enrollment goes as smoothly as possible, dedicated staff in over 2,000 Farm Service Agency offices across the country are doing everything necessary to help producers that have suffered through two and a half difficult years with no assistance because these programs were awaiting congressional action."

Depending on the size and type of farm or ranch operation, eligible producers can enroll in one of four programs administered by the Farm Service Agency.

»More than 2,000 Farm Service Agency Offices across the country stand ready to assist

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program and the Livestock Indemnity Program will provide payments to eligible producers for livestock deaths and grazing losses that have occurred since the expiration of the livestock disaster assistance programs in 2011, and including calendar years 2012, 2013, and 2014. The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have suffered losses because of disease, severe weather, blizzards and wildfires.

Enrollment also began for the Tree Assistance Program, which provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Producers signing up for these programs are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for information on the types of records needed and to schedule an appointment. Taking these steps in advance will help producers ensure their application moves through the process as quickly as possible.

Supporting documents may include livestock birth records, purchase and transportation receipts, photos and ownership records showing the number and type of livestock lost, documents listing the gallons of water transported to livestock during drought, and more. Crop records may include purchase receipts for eligible trees, bushes, or vines, seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records, and documentation of labor and equipment used to plant or remove eligible trees, bushes, or vines.

Producers have three to nine months to apply depending on the program and year of the loss. Details are available from any local FSA office.

For more information, producers may review the 2014 Farm Bill Fact Sheet, and the LIP, LFP, ELAP and TAP fact sheets online, or visit any local FSA office or USDA Service Center. ***(USDA)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 22, 2006

'Our government is broke'

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial thus summarized the state of the Commonwealth yesterday, as he delivered his first report to the Legislature since his inauguration a little more than 100 days ago. In his 30-minute speech, Fitial presented the status of the government as he found it in January, the steps his administration has taken, and his short-term and long-term plans. Contrary to tradition, Fitial tackled only economic issues. He skipped customary discussion about education, health care, and the environment, among other issues. The governor explained that it was "no ordinary State of the Commonwealth Address."

Silence on education disappoints NMC

The brief reference to education by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in his State of the Commonwealth Address disappointed Northern Marianas College officials, who were expecting him to dwell on the subject and outline ways of how the government will address this sector's continued lack of funding. Right after Fitial's speech, NMC representatives led by president Tony V. Deleon Guerrero slowly stood up, looked at each other, and walked slowly out of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. "It's disappointing," said Board of Regents chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds.

April 22, 2007

NMI seeks RFP from airlines

Amid the current air service crisis, the CNMI government is asking commercial airlines to submit proposals on what the CNMI can do to bring in direct flights, catering especially to the Japan market. Press secretary Charles P. Reyes said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial personally wrote different commercial airlines to inform them of the RFP. "The governor is asking...them [airlines] to submit proposals on how we might be able to help them bring in new flights. We're asking them what we can do to accomplish this. We're asking them to submit proposals," said Reyes.

Environment heroes honored

It was a night of glamour, social interaction and nostalgia as U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Awardee Beautify CNMI! looked back on its numerous achievements during a fundraising gala held at the Aqua Resort Club Friday night. Environmental A-listers in the CNMI, including government and private sector officials, environmental groups and individual advocates, rekindled ties and memories as they all got a pat in the back for a successful year behind and encouragements for the year ahead. The evening began with a video presentation called "Year in Review," prepared by Beautify CNMI! officer and emcee Angelo Villagomez. The presentation highlighted the accomplishments of the group and the people, organizations and individuals who helped them throughout its first year.

April 22, 2008

12 caught in illegal taxi dragnet

A crackdown on illegal taxis on Saipan conducted by combined law enforcers from different agencies resulted in the arrest of 12 persons in western Garapan Saturday night. Department of Public Safety Commissioner Claudio K. Norita and Attorney General Matthew Gregory told the media yesterday that nine men were arrested for operating illegal taxicabs, one woman was nabbed for prostitution, and two men for overstaying in the CNMI. Ten vehicles used in the illegal taxi operation were impounded and towed to the Department of Corrections for securing purposes, said Norita and Gregory during a news briefing in the Governor's Office's conference room.

Big bush fire hits Capital Hill area

A big bush fire broke out on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon, sweeping down the mountain from Wireless Ridge to the outskirts of Tanapag Village. The bush fire was reported to the Department of Public Safety at 1:46pm. As of 6:30pm last night, the flames could still be seen approaching Tanapag. The blaze could also be seen still threatening destruction to houses atop the Ridge around Zorrie Flats. DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro told Saipan Tribune that as of 5:30pm no one has been reported injured and no house has been burned. Ogumoro said that 10 DPS firefighters were in the area trying to contain the blaze.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS PTA meeting on Wednesday

All Marianas High School parents, guardians, and students are invited to attend the MHS PTA meeting this Wednesday, April 23, 2014, at 6:30pm in the MHS Cafeteria. There will be an update on MHS administration, programs, and future events and a report from the MHS Student Council. ***(PR)***

Red Cross sets health, safety trainings

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety training on the following dates:

- Tues., April 22, at 6 pm: Infant & Child First Aid/CPR/AED (second session continues Wednesday)
- Tues., April 22, at 6 pm: Infant & Child CPR/AED
- Wed., April 23, at 6 pm: Standard First Aid

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Course fees apply. To register or for more information on other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. ***(ARC)***

Navy, Air Force training on FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on April 22-24 from 6am to 11pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Prescription Drug Take Back Day set

The 2014 National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is scheduled nationwide on April 26, 2014, from 10am to 2pm. In the CNMI, the activity will be held simultaneously at the Rota Health Center (Songsong Village), Saipan Commonwealth Health Center (Middle Road Garapan), and Tinian Health Center (San Jose Village). ***(PR)***

31st Annual Islandwide Cleanup on April 25

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's 31st Annual Islandwide Cleanup for Environmental Awareness Month will be held Friday, April 25, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. To have your office or organization sign up for this event, contact BECQ at 664-8500 or email the event coordinators Edward Dela Cruz at edwarddelacruz@deq.gov.mp or Tom Pangelinan at tompangelinan@deq.gov.mp for a registration forms. ***(BECQ)***

PH Consulate to hold outreach on Tinian, Saipan

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam, in cooperation with the United Filipinos Association on Tinian, will conduct mobile consular services on Tinian, from May 9 to 10, 2014, at the Tinian Room of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

The consulate will also conduct similar mobile consular services on Saipan, this time with the help of the United Filipino Organizations, from May 12 to 15, 2014, at the Daidai Social Hall of the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

CCA board meeting on April 22

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2014, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on April 24

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2014, starting at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant. To RSVP or for more information, call the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com orcca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

Free erosion control training

Join the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality for a free workshop to learn about how to manage your land to decrease erosion and protect the environment on Saturday, April 26, 9am to 2pm, at Laolao Bay Golf Resort. Please contact Jihan Buniag at 664-8522 or 989-8442 to register. ***(PR)***

GOOD FRIDAY TREK JAYSON CAMACHO

Fr. Florentino Daynos is joined by community members after the placement of the cross at the top of Mt. Tapochau on Good Friday. The annual event always draws hundreds to the top of the highest point on Saipan.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0471
-v-	:	
DOLORES PUA POMEE and SAMISONI POMEE, Defendants.	:	

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 7, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 002 G 227, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 06 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1903, dated May 14, 1990, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 30, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 8th day of April, 2014:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

is inviting qualified U.S. Citizens to apply
for the following vacant positions

(1) Butcher: Cut, trim or prepare consumer sized portions of meat for use in the Resort's restaurant outlets.
Qualification Requirements: High School graduate or equivalent. One (1) year previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience as a butcher is required. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including week-ends and holidays.

(1) Steward Supervisor: Supervises stewarding staff in accordance with the Resort's policies and procedures ensuring they are implemented consistently leading to guest satisfaction.
Qualification Requirements: 3 years experience in stewarding; 1 year stewarding supervisor experience. Must be able to work long hours and handle pressure. Have strong knowledge on Health and procedure and implementation.

(2) Cooks: Prepare culinary delights to the Resort's guests ensuring guests' satisfaction in all of the Resort's restaurant outlets.
Qualification Requirements: 2 years experience as a cook in a high volume restaurant or hotel. Must have problem solving abilities, be self-motivated and organized. Must be able to work nights, weekends and holidays.

Applications may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa. Dead-line for submission of applications is April 25, 2014 to be considered.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866 / 234-9447 / 234-7689 / 234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Meeting of the Board is scheduled on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes
i. March 26, 2014 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. FY 2013 DRAFT AUDIT EXIT CONFERENCE

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **April 22**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **April 22**.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE

You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **April 22**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service, Please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or Visit any IT&E CS Center nearest you.

IT&E Life in Motion

To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:
SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00pm
Chalan Laulau – up to 6:00pm
Tinian/Rota Office - up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIV, Issue No. 79

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

We treasure our Sierra Madre

By RODEL RODIS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rodel Rodis is a lawyer and national president of the US Pinoys for Good Governance, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization based in New York. Send comments to Rodel50@gmail.com or mail them to the Law Offices of Rodel Rodis at 2429 Ocean Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94127 or call 415.334.7800.

In the1948 John Houston movie, *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, three destitute Americans working as gold prospectors mining the Sierra Madre mountains in Mexico are confronted by bandits posing as mounted police ("Federales"). When they are asked to produce their badges, the chief bandit's response is classic:

"Badges? We don't need no stinking badges!"

When China is asked to prove its ownership of all of the South China Sea, all 1.7 million square miles of it, including all of the islands and outcrops within the 200-mile exclusive economic zone of the Philippines, we can imagine China's response:

"Proof? We don't need no stinking proof?"

That may be a better response than the "stinking proof" China actually presented to the United Nations on May 7, 2009, when it presented a map of the South China Sea drawn by the Kuomintang government on Dec. 1, 1947. Originally an 11-line map, it was later

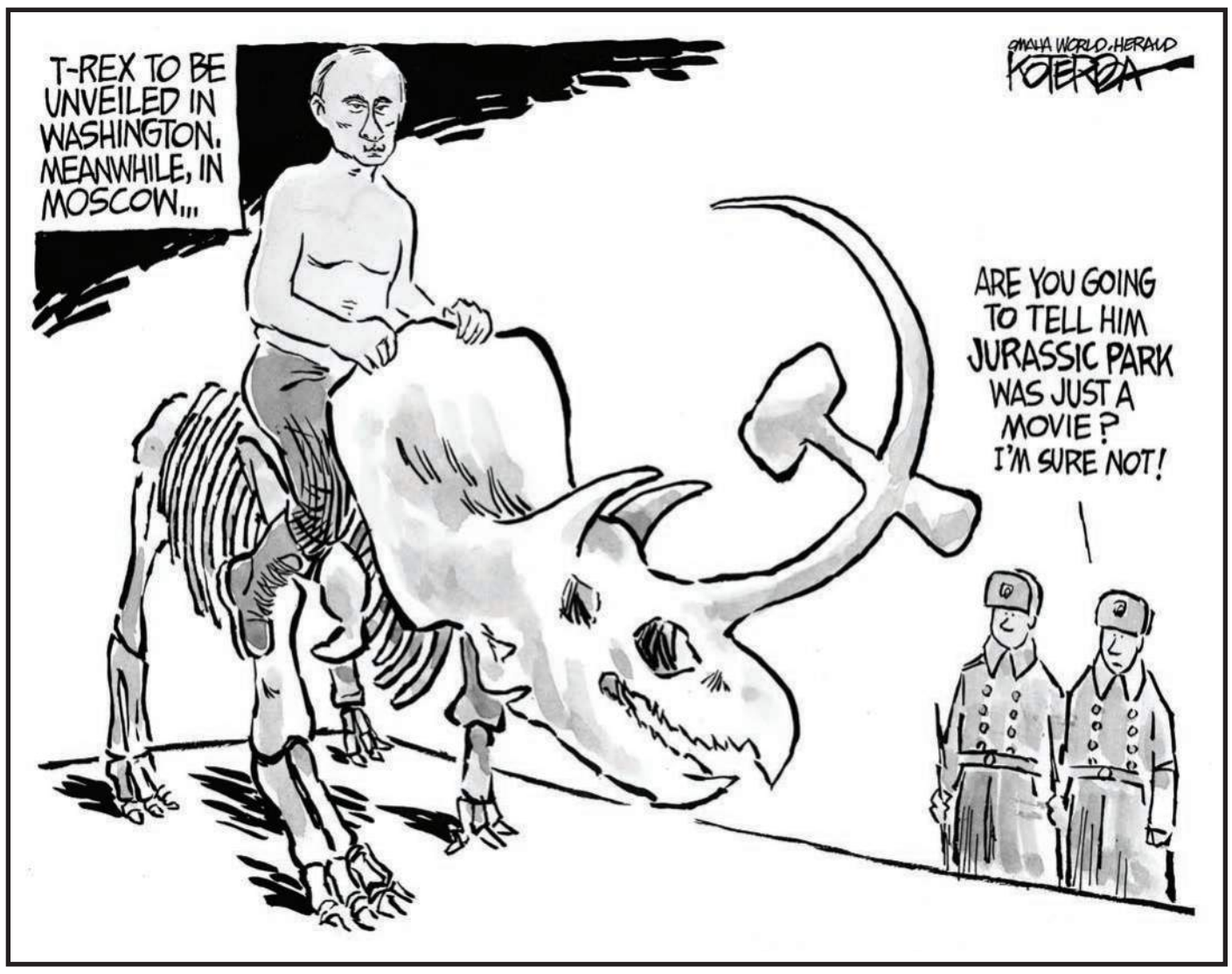
reduced to nine lines by the Chinese Communists in 1949 and then recently increased to 10 in 2013.

China's multi-line map does not contain any specific geographic coordinates and does not explain how it would be connected if it were a continuous line. Prof. Yin Wenqiang, a senior Chinese government maritime law expert, candidly admitted in a U.S. Embassy cable in 2008 that he was unaware of the historical basis for China's claim.

This preposterous claim would be akin to a 4-year-old child with a box of crayons using them to draw several lines on a piece of paper, and the imperious parents requiring everyone to indulge the fantasies of their spoiled child and accept the lines on a map as a legitimate claim of ownership.

This spurious claim was the basis for China's illegal 1995 occupation of Mischief Reef (Panganiban Reef), just 130 miles from Palawan. China has constructed a four-story Chinese military garrison with a helipad on the outcropping shoal of Mischief Reef.

See SIERRA on Next Page


T-REX TO BE UNVEILED IN WASHINGTON. MEANWHILE, IN MOSCOW...
ARE YOU GOING TO TELL HIM JURASSIC PARK WAS JUST A MOVIE? I'M SURE NOT!
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD
KOTERBA

Pyongyang Marathon

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

We were feted with a movie not too long ago of 300 naked Spartans poised against the Persians in the Battle of Thermopylae. I did not watch the movie, though I saw the posters all over Saipan with the main character looking like he was showing off his abs after a session at the gym. It reminded me of an earlier historical encounter in the plains of Marathon where the Persians were also defeated but then withdrew to sail to Athens, and a runner named Pheiddipides (aka Philippides, a name this guy born in the Philippines remembers) ran the 26-mile distance to warn the city of an impending Persian attack, thus the 26-mile distance of present-day marathons including that of the Olympics!

We could meander down Darius and Xerxes historical paths at the zenith of the Persian Empire, or, more recently, the history of the Olympics run since 1896 in the Games in Athens that needed a popular drawing card and came off with the marathon, or even the odd 26.385 mile measure once held because the King of England was seated exactly at that distance from the starting point, but the marathon itself is not our immediate interest. It is its recent Pyongyang incarnation that caught our fancy, not unlike the one on Saipan, where three events were held: the main one, the half run, and the 10K.

Pyongyang had its run earlier than Saipan and we are not after details of who was first to cross the finishing line as much as we are surprised to discover that the event has been held since 1981; in fact, has already been running for more than two decades (would be three but there were years it did not run). Further, the last one on April 13 this year was open to foreign amateur runners where more than 200 participants entered.

(We shall be forgiven if we mention the first year anniversary of the Boston Marathon, marred last year by explosions at the finishing line allegedly from bombs planted by the Chechen brothers Tsarnaevs, making participants this year on Patriots' Day more determined—"we own the finish line"—to run the event oblivious to any fear that may have been inflicted by last year's occurrence, in spite of the ugly prank of a copycat who left backpacks with a rice cooker at the finishing line a few nights before the run that police had to explode just to be sure. We do lament the fact that we kept the young Tsarnaev alive so we can punish him for life!)

Now, back to Pyongyang. I am obviously not too keen on finding out about whose legs got them fastest to the finish line and received the medal at the Mangyongdae Prize International Marathon. OK, what's with "Mangyongdae"? That's actually the name of the village where founder of *Chosun, Chaoxian* in Chinese for "North Korea," Kim Sung Il was born, sort of like Abe Lincoln's Kentucky log cabin but with much more patriotic hullabaloo, though not as touristy as Mt. Vernon.

I am only four hours away by regular train to the city of Dandong, China's shipping port at the mouth of the Yalu River right across from NoKor's Sin'uiju City with an unfinished bridge standing halfway across the river from the China side. The border traffic is hardly noticeable as the Koreans on the Dandong side, aside from being part of Korea-in-China, previously Kogoryo of old, now formally administered as Yanbian, are undocumented immigrants, or clandestine agents.

There's a tourist ride on the Dandong side of the Yalu River that gets to the riverbank of the other side, close enough to actually see the bathers turn around and execute a cute "belfie" (butt up front) on camera clickers. The late afternoon ride I took had a young couple perform an X-rated act to the delight of the menfolk and giggled embarrassment of the demure ladies. I was told that such irreverence was not sanctioned but nonetheless tolerated when they occurred, though occasionally it is used as an object lesson to instill discipline on the unruly but nature-loving farm hands.

Compared to Dandong, the largest port facility in the Far East, brightly lit at night against the dark boulevards of *Chaoxian's* thoroughfares, Sin'uiju is a sleepy town. In fact, the Internet has a satellite night photo of the Korean peninsula where the South looks like a Chicago Christmas tree and the North a replica of a starless Himalayan night. I was reminded of Dandong when I visited Heihe across the Amur River from the Russian Far East city of Blagoveshchensk where China again burned the midnight oil (a resource it does not have much of) so that its Russian neighbors would be reminded of the difference of public façade, never mind the actual economic realities on the ground.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the Pyongyang marathon is one of NoKor's tourist attractions to earn valued foreign exchange currency. With a new ski slope and the recent suggestion of joint investigation on SoKor's three drone attacks that Seoul thinks came from the hermit kingdom, perhaps *Chaoxian* is inclined to play. Why not indulge them, to keep their skills honed on games rather than on perfecting the refinement of weapons-grade uranium they are determined to attain since we accuse them of doing it anyway?

Yo bosaeyo, Chaoxian!

Poble yan miserapble

Ha faisenyu` i amigo Magu haf` difirensiaña poble yan miserapble. Hu sañgane na todu i dos pot pinadese. I peble pot estau i prohimu gi monedaña. I kualidat linala`ña gi fondun pisun pineble i miserapble. Lau petsonat na disision i segundu.

I sentimenton kada tautau lokue` guaha `nai tinetpe poble yan miserapble. `An ti sessu hau manayuyot `sino malag i gima` Yuus, pues siempre un` fagcha`e sessu poble siñientemu.

Gi hilu` este ya guaha sumen tailaye un` chogue kontra i otru, pues i konsensiamu u famadese miserapble gi halom sasalaguanmu mismu. Estague` mina` bale tinayuyot diariu pot para un` asegura na fitme añklan botimu espirituat. Muñga hinalañg chumogue i mauleg ya un` sedi i Saina umesgaihon galaide`mu diariu.

Hu chage umatlibes gi un` sumen makat na fina`pos pot malañgun `un patgonhu. Umasoda`yu` yan i mas afamau na medikun operasion korason famaguon. Gi uttimu, i Saina `nai hu appelayu`. Listuyu` umaksepta haf` uttimu disposisioña. Mit grasias sa` ha oppeyu` ni finaisenhu. Gai raya klaru nina` siñan tautau yan i Nanalibreta. Tai akomparasion sa` taihinekog nina` siñaña!

Hinanau Tautau

Estorian biblia pot dos tautau ni matagu` para u diñgu i lugat ya chaniha uma`atan tatte. Pot imbelekeria, ma-atan tatte `nai gotpe mama` achu`. Haf` sustansian este na sinisede? Ti pot inañgoghu gi finu` i Saina?

Na ti ayudun Sainata na ta diside pot dos besis na muñga hit casino guine giya Saipan? Ileghu na pa`gu na biahe guaha siempre tumotpe mama` achu` gi tohgeña. Proteksion yan ginefsagan natibu ha manifesta pot dos biahe. Hafa dinidan miyu?

■■■

Un` litiku na amku` ni apmam de mana`saga gi hospitat hu fa` amigu. Sessu humame manayuyot `an pueñge antes de u deskansa.

Un` pupueñge dispues de manayuyot ham, ha echayu` bendision ya ilegña, "U felis kareramu ihu. Estague` uttimu para umali`eta na dos". Gi sigiente dia, taigue esta gi katreña. Ilegña i infetmera na dumeskansa. Hana` matmanyu` i fino`ña ni sen tihu suspecha haf` sustansiaña. Despedida!

Katma na lemlem tautau

Hu sen-agradese mañugun gi lemlem tautau entalu` Oleai yan Gima Yuus Kristo Rai. Gaige gi sanlagu katma kulan laña na tasi. Tinegtug ni sumen bonita na minachom atdau.

Guaha `nai anog lokue` un` gatbon isa ni dumudulalag i trosun uchan esta i puntan tasi. Sumen bonitu yan katma na minachom atdau. Kontodu guahu ha balutanyu` i katma gi sanlagu.

Estague` na lugat taya` parehuña ni manu giya Pasifiku. Mauleg na numeron isla lini`e hu gi sankattan yan sanlichan na patte giya Pasifiku. Tai atparehu gatbon entalu` Oleai yan Garapan.

Mas paire i lugat kumu litratista hau ya un` tuñgu man-litratu. Achog ha` para un` famokat, paire na lugat gi lemlem tautau. Homlu` para tatautaumu yan espiritumu. Chage!

■■■

Hana` chalegyu` `nai hu huñgog estorian dos bonitan palao`an China yan tautau-ta. Gi duranten konbetsasion sinañgane palao`an natibu na u para man-deskatga.

Ilegña, "Mafatinas este para patgon neni".

Ineppe ni China, "Hu fa` salalape` chinigethu kada pueñge". Dios mihu na abisu!

Ti ligat este na cho`chu` guine. Poresu, mas chadeg machalapon chetnot simienteyu (HIV) ginen este na mañan famalao`an siha.

■■■

Ilegña un` prohimu na malalago-gue` para offisinan mayot. Hu faisen haf` ha dudulalag pot i uttimu biahe `nai hu rikonose, gagaige ha` i offisinan mayot gi sagaña. Achapagpag chaleg mame. Dios mihu!

■■■

Mana` katiye sairen (siren) un` tiuhu pot mañuñugon motosaikot sin tuhuñg. Tiha gana i birada ya umaliñgkeñg gi halom sakate. Kontodu antios yan yore`ña man-maliñgu.

Finaisen ni polisia haf` na hana` spidiñg-gue`.

Ineppe, "Ke lau haye hau tumagu` dumulalag-yu`?" Dinanche!

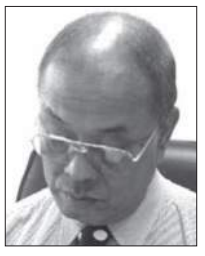
■■■

Madispacha un` Chamorro kumu guatdian trañka antes gi entradan iya Magpi. Era tai fasilidat komun i lugat ya `nai ha nesessita tuminane` ha falague i halom tanu`.

Gi hiniyoñgña, estaba esta i ma`gasña pelon. Finaisen ginen manugue`.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Ilegña, "Bullshit!" Era ginen tuminane`. Madispacha!

Makone` tatte dispues pot tiha tuñgu` fuminu` Iñgles.

Mafaisen haf` `nai na ha sañgane amu bullshit.

Ilegña, "Ahe! Hu sañgane na ginen masinegyu`. " Dios mihu!

■■■

Guaha un` bihan mame ni sumen tuñgu` guihan iya Marianas. Ha tuñgu kau ginen Luta, Tinian pat Saipan i mafute` yan otru siha guihan sanhalom. Sin ditension hu faisen haf` taimanu tuñgo`ña. Gaige gi sabot i guihan. Namatman!

■■■

Hu soda` un` hagas fuetsudu yan brabu na amiguhu. Pa`gu na biahe ma-utut esta deste mediu gi sanotña pot inadite daibites. Ilegña, "Adahe hinemlo`mu sino ma-utut lokue` reda-mu". Ai na grasian ham guihe na oga`an gi hospitat.

■■■

Dispues, kakaghalom otru amiguhu mau`udai gi wheelchair sa` ti siña esta mamokat. Era macha-utut dos sanotña. Matachongyu` ya hu konsidera kau ayu futtunahu? Dios mihu, Iku!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leading the next generation

Dear Honorable Joaquin C. Flores:

On behalf of the Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication Standing Committee of the 18th CNMI Legislature, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the invitation to the GPA Integrated Resources Plan Forum.

We further extend our appreciation to GPA staff, the Honorable Chairman of the Consolidated Commission on Utilities, Mr. Simon Sanchez, CCU Commissioner, Mr. Eloy Hara, General Manager of Consolidated Utilities Services, Mr. John Benavente, the Honorable Senator Tom Ada, the Governor of Guam, the Honorable Governor Eddie Calvo, panelists and the rest who gave us a warm welcome to the Forum.

It was a pleasure to be part of the Forum and the valuable information we received shall be shared with policymakers and stakeholders of the CNMI. We are also unconditionally thankful for your willingness to share your expertise and knowledge as we embark in developing the CNMI's Integrated Resources Plan.

Once again, thank you and congratulations for a successful Forum.

Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero
House of Representatives, Precinct 5
18th Northern Marianas Legislature
Capital Hi,, Saipan

SIERRA

From Page 10

China has also planted buoys in Sabina Shoal, which is just 70 miles from Palawan. It is China's "well-rehearsed routine" when laying claim to a shoal to first put down buoys, then place concrete markers, then build temporary wooden or bamboo shelters, and if unchallenged, to then erect permanent military installations.

Recognizing that China was seeking to occupy the Ayungin Shoal, which is only 13 nautical miles from Mischief Reef and just 108 nautical miles from Palawan, the Philippine Navy deployed its mothballed ship, the BRP *Sierra Madre* (originally built as a tank-loading U.S. warship in 1944), to the Ayungin Shoal and then deliberately ran it aground to serve as a marine outpost to guard the uninhabitable Ayungin Shoal. Ayungin's real value is its strategic proximity to the oil-rich Recto Bank.

There was little action in the Ayungin Shoal from 1999 until May of 2013, when three Chinese ships appeared on the shoal's horizon to signal the beginning of China's naval blockade of the shoal. Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin assured the Filipino people at the time that the Philippine Navy would defend Ayungin "to the last soldier standing."

China's Maj. Gen. Zhang Zhaozhong previously explained China's "cabbage strategy" to occupy Ayungin Shoal, the same strategy successfully employed in securing Mischief Reef and the Scarborough Shoal.

"In the area around the island, fishing administration ships and marine surveillance ships are conducting normal patrols while in the outer ring there are navy warships. The island is thus wrapped layer by layer like a cabbage. As a result, a cabbage strategy has taken shape. If the Philippines wants to go in, in the outermost area, it has first to ask whether our navy will allow it. Then it has to ask whether our fishery administration ships and marine surveillance ships will allow it."

"For those small islands, only a few troopers are able to station on each of them, but there is no food or even drinking water there. If we carry out the 'cabbage' strategy, you will not be able to send food and drinking water onto the islands," Zhang said. The Filipino troops stationed there would be forced to leave and China could then occupy the territory without firing a shot.

With only a few Philippine marines stationed on board the *Sierra Madre*, China thought it was only a matter of time before Ayungin would be fully occupied by China. The cabbage strategy was working in Ayungin until November of 2013, when Super Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda struck the area, forcing the Chinese vessels to return to China. This silver lining of Yolanda allowed the Philippine Navy to replenish the troops and food supplies on board the *Sierra Madre.*

But the Chinese ships returned back to Ayungin Shoal in early 2014, and when two Philippine vessels arrived in the Shoal with fresh marines to replace those who were stationed there in November 2013, the Chinese ships barred them from reaching the *Sierra Madre* on March 9.

Undeterred, on March 28, the Philippine Navy deployed another civilian vessel (AM 700) on a 30-hour voyage from Palawan to the *Sierra Madre* filled with marine replacements, 10 tons of food and water supplies and a dozen representatives of the foreign and local media.

As their vessel neared the *Sierra Madre*, two Chinese coast guard ships appeared in front of them to block them. A Chinese coast guard ship marked "1141″ crossed the bow of the smaller Philippine vessel to stop it from proceeding forward. Another tailed the Filipino boat.

The Chinese radioed the Filipinos, telling them to stop. "You will take full responsibility for the consequences of your action," the voice said in English.

"This is the Republic of the Philippines," Philippine Navy Lt. Ferdinand Gato, who was in charge of the supply mission, replied. "We are here to provision the troops."

Philippine Daily Inquirer reporter Nikko Dizon described the event in a hurried phone call to the *Inquirer* news desk.

"Chinese coast guards are now harassing us. They are blowing their horns, ordering us out of the area, saying we are conducting an illegal operation," Dizon reported.

But the Philippine boat successfully maneuvered through a shallow approach to the shoal where the larger Chinese ships could not follow and successfully docked alongside the *Sierra Madre.*

The fresh crew of Philippine marines and the members of the media boarded the *Sierra Madre* and watched as the marines who had been stationed for four months on the ship dressed in their military fatigues, with their scraggly beards, proudly raised the Philippine flag in a "relieving the watch" ceremony. The photo of this ceremony went viral and may yet be the iconic photo of the "Battle of Ayungin."

At virtually the same time that the flag was being raised on the *Sierra Madre*, the Philippine government was submitting its memorandum to the Arbitral Tribunal of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) at The Hague in the Netherlands challenging China's territorial claims over the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert Del Rosario described the Memorial, consisting of 10 volumes, including more than 40 maps, in nearly 4,000 pages, as being "about defending what is legitimately ours…about securing our children's future… about guaranteeing freedom of navigation for all nations…about helping to preserve regional peace, security and stability. And finally, it is about seeking not just any kind of resolution but a just and durable solution grounded on International Law."

For now, the Philippine flag still flies over the Sierra Madre with its contingent of fresh Philippine marines to protect the Ayungin Shoal from a hegemonist China fully determined to seize it.

Will China wait until the term of office of President Aquino ends in June 2016 and a new president more supportive of China's claims is elected? China does not actually need to pour billions of pesos into the coffers of its preferred presidential candidate; it can simply ask the Chinese Filipino taipans—with enormous investments in China—to financially back a more pro-China candidate, someone more like former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Or will China be unwilling to wait that long and just increase the number of its ships surrounding the Ayungin Shoal to prevent the next Philippine resupply ship from slipping through?

In the meantime, a group of U.S. Pinoys in San Francisco is asking the Philippine Navy to set up a special fund to raise the money needed to paint the dilapidated and crumbling *Sierra Madre* ship, perhaps with bright Philippine flag colors of blue, white and red.

"That way, every time the Chinese invaders see our *Sierra Madre*, they will know without doubt who owns the Ayungin Shoal," said Esther Aure Asercion, one of the project's organizers.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

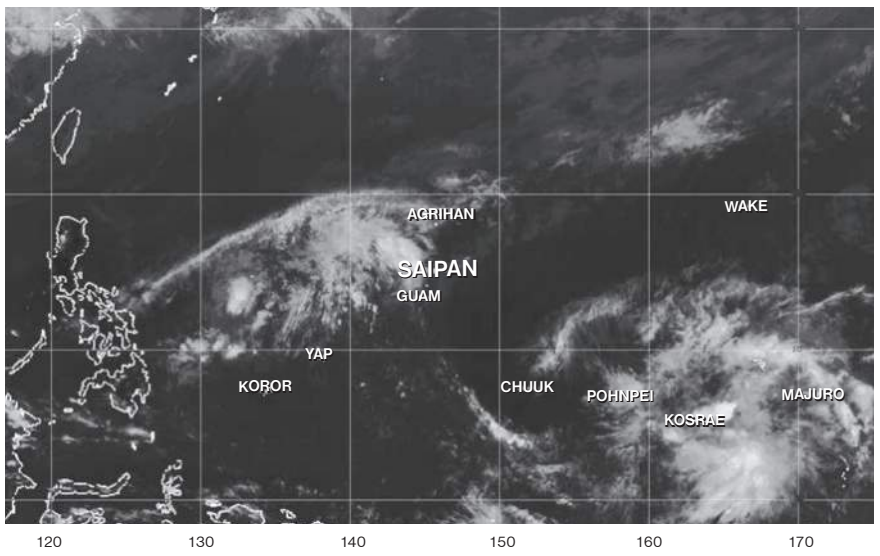
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼79
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲91	▼79
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼59
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼54
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼74
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼73
London	Showers	▲62	▼47
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼57
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲94	▼79
Melbourne	Rain	▲68	▼49
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼68
New York	Sunny	▲61	▼45
Osaka	Cloudy	▲68	▼50
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼48
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼54
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲76	▼57
Salem	Showers	▲64	▼43
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼49
Seoul	Sunny	▲73	▼47
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼54
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲69	▼49

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough runs northeastward from 6N130E to a tropical disturbance centered west of Yap near 10N136E then curves southeastward through another disturbance centered southeast of Kosrae at 4N165E to end at 7N170E. A surface trough curves northeastward from the first disturbance at 10N136E across the far northern CNMI to 20N147E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring north of Yap and Koror and northwest of the Marianas within 150 miles of a line from 10N133E to 13N135E to 20N147E farther east. Scattered showers are found south of Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 5N150E to EQ156E. Finally, showers and isolated thunderstorms are present near Pohnpei across Kosrae, Kwajalein and Majuro to the date line between the equator and 10N from 159E to the date line. A frontal boundary extends southwestward from 25N170E to 24N165E and continues as a shear line to just north of the Mariana Islands near 20N146E to beyond 15N at 130E. Low clouds and scattered showers are found along and up to 160 miles northwest of this feature.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:47 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:27 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
1:08 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
8:36 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59 AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:08 AM	11:58 AM
Wednesday	1:00 AM	12:57 PM
Thursday	1:50 AM	1:55 PM
Friday	2:37 AM	2:52 PM
Saturday	3:23 AM	:52 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	6:55pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
			via Rota
UA5038	7:45pm	8:35pm	2, 6
UA5078	8:10pm	9:00pm	3

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	5:35pm	6:10pm	2, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	6:40pm	7:15pm	2, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11: 05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
			via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7
			via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
			via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7
			via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
			via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via
			GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	5:35pm	7:15pm	2, 6 via Rota
UA5077	6:50pm	7:40pm	3

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	6:55pm	7:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	8:00pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:45am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
			via NRT
UA190/5039	9:55am	6:25pm	7 via Guam
UA190/5038	9:55am	7:15pm	6 via Rota-Guam
UA190/5077	9:55am	7:40pm	3 via Guam
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
			via Guam
UA184/5038	10:25pm	7:15pm+1	1 via Rota-Guam
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/5038	11:30pm	7:15pm+1	5 via Rota-Guam

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
			via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6
			via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

New challenge in *Daiki Maru* salvage operation

APRA HARBOR, Guam— The unified command continues salvage operations of the grounded Japanese commercial fishing vessel *Daiki Maru 7* in outer Apra Harbor on April 18 despite a new challenge.

On the morning of April 17 the vessel's mooring lines attached to the on-site barge snapped due to increasing ocean swells. *Daiki Maru 7* drifted back toward shore along the same path it was removed and became wedged against the front of the rock it originally rested beside. Salvage teams have shifted their efforts and are using the vessel's new position to their advantage for swifter removal and demolition.

"Despite the change of sea and surf, the salvage team is able to adjust tactics and continue the safe removal of the vessel from the harbor," said U.S. Naval Base Guam operations officer Dennis Siler. "The unified command continues to work closely with the responsible party to ensure the vessel is properly demolished and minimizes impact to the area."

U.S. NAVY/TIMOTHY WILSON

Contract salvage teams reassess salvage plans of *Daiki Maru 7* after the mooring lines snapped in the early morning hours of April 17 due to large swells. This phase represents the final salvage portion of operations where the vessel will be dissembled in preparation for transport to shore for proper disposal.

A contract salvage team is utilizing an on-site barge and crane to disassemble the vessel in preparation for transport to shore and proper disposal. All recoverable hazardous materials have been removed from the vessel, which ran aground on Feb. 13.

Contract teams conduct cleanup operations regularly to ensure demolition debris from the vessel does not further impact the environment as salvage continues.

The unified command consists of representatives of Naval Base Guam, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, and the responsible party. Other agencies that have been involved in all aspects of planning from the standup include Joint Region Marianas operations department, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas environmental personnel, NOAA, Guam Fish and Wildlife Service, Guam Environmental Protection Agency, Mammoet Salvage, Cabras Marine, and Osroco. ***(PR)***

Two sentenced in Guam court for alien smuggling

Romualdo Enusban, 58, and Lolita Cunan, 59, both Philippine citizens, were sentenced on April 17, 2014, in the District Court of Guam by Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, for alien smuggling and aiding and abetting false statement respectively, according to Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, United States Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Enusban was sentenced to a 10-month prison term and will be deported back to the Philippines. Cunan was sentenced to a three-year probationary period. A money judgment of forfeiture was also ordered against Enusban in the amount of $16,800.

According to the indictment, from about August 2012 until March 24, 2013, Enusban devised a scheme to bring co-defendants Irish Danica Bautista and Ofelia Gonzalez from the Philippines to Guam. While in the Philippines, Enusban generated Bautista and Gonzales' C-1 visas in exchange for cash. A C-1 visa allows a non-immigrant to enter the United States for the purpose of transiting to a foreign location. Under a C-1 visa, an alien has up to 29 days to transit the U.S. to a foreign location. A person's failure to do so would constitute an overstay on their C-1 status. Enusban planned that Bautista and Gonzales enter Guam under the C-1 visa, and intended that they travel to Las Vegas, NV, which was a violation of the C-1 visa program.

On March 21, 2013, Enusban accompanied Bautista and Gonzales on a flight from Manila to Guam, a flight purchased by Enusban's travel agency. Enusban further sought the assistance of his stepsister, Cunan. Cunan assisted in the fabrication of an invitation letter in support of Bautista's and Gonzales' transit to Pohnpei, and gave the letter to Enusban. Cunan also assisted by purchasing one-way airline tickets to Las Vegas for Bautista and Gonzales, knowing that Bautista and Gonzales intended to illegally remain in the U.S. in violation of their immigration status.

Bautista and Gonzales entered their guilty pleas to conspiracy to commit visa fraud and were sentenced on Sept. 4, 2013, to a one-year probationary period and both voluntarily returned back to the Philippines.

This case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen F. Leon Guerrero. ***(USAO)***

Strong earthquake strikes off Papua New Guinea

SYDNEY (AP)—A powerful earthquake struck off the South Pacific nation of Papua New Guinea on Saturday, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

The magnitude-7.5 earthquake was located 75 kilometers (47 miles) southwest of the town of Panguna on Bougainville Island, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It struck late Saturday at a depth of 31 kilometers (19 miles).

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued a warning for Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, but canceled it a short while later.

Earthquakes are common in Papua New Guinea. The country lies on the "Ring of Fire"—an arc of earthquake and volcanic activity that stretches around the Pacific Rim.

US Naval Hospital Guam replacement open for business

AGANA HEIGHTS, Guam— Although only a coincidence in scheduling, the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam officially opened its doors for business in their new state-of the art facility the day after Easter Sunday, April 21, symbolic of the building being brought to life through the welcoming of its staff and patients.

"After 45 days of training and outfitting the hospital, we have safely transferred of all functions and achieved full occupational capacity," said Capt. Jeff Plummer, the hospital's commanding officer.

The hospital staff spent the last week transitioning from the 1954 facility, which saw much history and cared for many sick and injured both military and non-military, from war casualties to storms, to political refugees. Although the building has served faithfully for these past 60 years it is no longer conducive to efficient medical care. The replacement hospital was built and designed to incorporate advances in healthcare delivery, which includes improved patient life safety and increased efficiencies in hospital operations. It was also designed to withstand the elements and weather storms.

As the staff and community say goodbye to a historical and sentimental past reflected by the 1954 facility, Navy Medicine's presence and legacy continues on through the replacement hospital whose mission is to "deliver readiness, quality care and health where America's day begins."

The replacement hospital provides 42 beds, four operating rooms, two C-Section rooms, and improved diagnostic and ancillary capabilities to include MRI and CT scanning suites. ***(USN)***

REL Pacific at McREL launches downloadable education logic model application

HONOLULU, Hawaii—The Regional Educational Laboratory for the Pacific region, or REL Pacific, has announced the launch of its Education Logic Model (ELM) application, a computer-based, interactive module that runs locally on Google Chrome and does not require users to connect to the Internet. The app is designed to guide users through creating a logic model to determine how data fit within the larger design of a program and how they relate to different program components.

Developed with funding from the Institute of Education Sciences, the ELM application takes the typical "how-to" guide to the next level, guiding users through a series of questions and providing opportunities to enter program resources, activities, outputs, and outcomes. Once all program information is entered, users will be prompted to draw lines between each component, illustrating their cause-and-effect relationships. The end result is a printable logic model that functions as a map for the program team, visually connecting your intended activities with intended outcomes.

The ELM is available on flash drives for users with limited Internet connectivity and available for download on the REL Pacific website: http://relpacific.mcrel.org/ELM.html

Why create a logic model for a program?

Logic models are an invaluable tool for teachers, administrators, policy makers, and evaluators for visually representing the structure, process, and goals of a program, both conceptual and actionable.

Logic models can contribute to the success of a program by:

- making the intention behind the program clear;
- introducing common language and references for collaborators in the program;
- defining resources and outlining activities, as in an action plan;
- showing measurable results as well as short-, mid-, or long-term effects;
- using a visual display as a proven and effective learning tool;
- illustrating the *process* of the program, speaking to its value beyond the measurable effects; and
- using theories of change to guide the planning process, making lessons learned more evident in the evaluation stage.

In addition to the application, users may download the accompanying just-released quick reference guide, *Logic Models: A Tool for Designing and Monitoring Program Evaluations*, which introduces logic models as a tool to help educators plan and monitor program evaluations.

About REL Pacific at McREL

REL Pacific is one of 10 Regional Educational Laboratories established and funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. We connect educators in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau with research on teacher effectiveness, family and community engagement, college and career readiness, and more. REL Pacific is housed at and operated by the Pacific Center for Changing the Odds at McREL International. McREL is a private nonprofit corporation that draws upon the best of education research to translate what works into innovations and results. ***(PR)***

Business

Brand names in NY standardized tests vex parents

NEW YORK (AP)—"Just Do It" has been a familiar Nike slogan for years, but some parents are wondering what it was doing on some of New York's Common Core standardized English tests.

Brands including Barbie, iPod, Mug Root Beer and Life Savers showed up on the tests more than a million students in grades 3 through 8 took this month, leading to speculation it was some form of product placement advertising.

New York state education officials and the test publisher say the brand references were not paid product placement but just happened to be contained in previously published passages selected for the tests.

Some critics aren't so sure and questioned why specific brand names would be mentioned at all.

"It just seems so unnecessary," said Josh Golin, associate director of the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, which monitors marketing directed at children.

"It would be horrible if they were getting paid for it," he said. "But even if they're not, it's taking something that should not be a commercial experience and commercializing it."

The test questions have not been made public, and teachers and principals are barred from discussing them. But teachers posting anonymously on education blogs have complained that students were confused by the brand names, which were accompanied by trademark symbols.

The Nike question was about being a risk taker and included the line, "'Just Do It' is a registered trademark of Nike," according to students who took the test.

AP

In this June 21, 2013 file photo, Nike Shox running shoes are displayed in Tampa, Fla. Nike Inc.'s copyrighted phrase "Just Do It" has shown up on standardized tests given to New York students in grades three to eight in April 2014.

Sam Pirozzolo, of Staten Island, whose fifth-grader encountered the Nike question, said there was apparently no reason for such a specific brand.

"I'm sure they could have used a historical figure who took risks and invented things," Pirozzolo said. "I'm sure they could have found something other than Nike to express their point."

Deborah Poppe, of West Hempstead, Long Island, said her eighth-grade son was similarly puzzled by a question, which drew complaints for a second straight year, about a busboy who failed to clean some spilled root beer—Mug Root Beer, to be exact, a registered trademark of PepsiCo.

`"Why are they trying to sell me something during the test?'" she quoted her son as saying. "He's bright enough to realize that it was almost like a commercial."

The use of brand names was one of several complaints raised by some educators and parents about the statewide tests, aligned to the Common Core standards intended to increase academic rigor. Some contend they are too difficult and don't measure what students are actually learning.

While such general complaints about Common Core tests have arisen elsewhere, advocates said the prevalence of brand names appears to be specific to New York.

Representatives of the New York State Education Department and Pearson, the education publishing giant with a $32 million five-year contract to develop New York's tests, said the companies did not pay for the exposure.

"There are no product placement deals between us, Pearson or anyone else," said Tom Dunn, an Education Department spokesman. "No deals. No money. We use authentic texts. If the author chose to use a brand name in the original, we don't edit."

Pearson spokeswoman Stacy Skelly said neither the company nor the education department received any compensation for the mentions. And if any brand comes up in a passage, she said, "the trademark symbol is included in order to follow rights and permission laws and procedures."

Study: Fuels from corn waste not better than gas

WASHINGTON (AP)—Biofuels made from the leftovers of harvested corn plants are worse than gasoline for global warming in the short term, a study shows, challenging the Obama administration's conclusions that they are a much cleaner oil alternative and will help combat climate change.

A $500,000 study paid for by the federal government and released Sunday in the peer-reviewed journal Nature Climate Change concludes that biofuels made with corn residue release 7 percent more greenhouse gases in the early years compared with conventional gasoline.

While biofuels are better in the long run, the study says they won't meet a standard set in a 2007 energy law to qualify as renewable fuel.

The conclusions deal a blow to what are known as cellulosic biofuels, which have received more than a billion dollars in federal support but have struggled to meet volume targets mandated by law. About half of the initial market in cellulosics is expected to be derived from corn residue.

The biofuel industry and administration officials immediately criticized the research as flawed. They said it was too simplistic in its analysis of carbon loss from soil, which can vary over a single field, and vastly overestimated how much residue farmers actually would remove once the market gets underway.

"The core analysis depicts an extreme scenario that no responsible farmer or business would ever employ because it would ruin both the land and the long-term supply of feedstock. It makes no agronomic or business sense," said Jan Koninckx, global business director for biorefineries at DuPont.

Later this year the company is scheduled to finish a $200 million-plus facility in Nevada, Iowa, that will produce 30 million gallons of cellulosic ethanol using corn residue from nearby farms. An assessment paid for by DuPont said that the ethanol it will produce there could be more than 100 percent better than gasoline in terms of greenhouse gas emissions.

Kraft recalls 96,000 pounds of Oscar Mayer wieners

NEW YORK (AP)—Kraft Foods is recalling 96,000 pounds of its Oscar Mayer wieners because they may mistakenly contain cheese.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service said Sunday that Kraft's "Oscar Mayer Classic Wieners" may instead contain the company's "Classic Cheese Dogs."

The agency said the product labels are incorrect and do not reflect the ingredients associated with the pasteurized cheese in the cheese dogs. Those products were made with milk, a known allergen, which is not declared on the label.

It said the problem was discovered by a consumer who notified Kraft on Friday. The company alerted the USDA the following day, according to the statement.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service said it has not received reports of adverse reactions. A representative for the agency wasn't immediately available for comment.

A representative for Kraft Foods Group Inc., Joyce Hodel, said in an email that the hot dogs were made in a plant in Columbia, Mo.

The products were made in early March and bear the number "Est. 537H" inside the USDA mark of inspection. People with questions about the recall are being asked to contact Kraft's consumer relations department at (855) 688-4386.

The recall applies to:

■ 16-ounce individual consumer packages of "Classic Wieners Made with Turkey & Chicken, Pork Added," with a "USE BY 16 Jun 2014" date and product code "044700000632."

■ Cases of 16-ounce packages that were distributed to retailers of "Classic Cheese Dogs Made with Turkey & Chicken, Pork Added, and Pasteurized Cheese Product," with "USE BY 16 Jun 2014" date and case code "00447000005300."

Those cases may contain packages that are mislabeled as "Classic Wieners," according to Hodel.

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

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New boss reluctant to delegate tasks

QUESTION: After my boss was promoted, our director asked if I would handle her responsibilities until he could find a replacement. I had no interest in the position myself, but was glad to help out. For six months, I did most of her tasks as well as my own.

A few weeks ago, "Stacy" was hired to fill the supervisory job. Stacy came from another company and has no management experience. After assuming all the duties that belonged to my former boss, she also took away some responsibilities that have always been mine. Now she is clearly struggling with the workload.

I offered to handle some of this work, but Stacy refuses to let go of anything. This makes me feel that I am no longer trusted. I would like to talk with Stacy about this, but I'm not sure what to say.

ANSWER: You must first understand that the issue is not your competence, but Stacy's discomfort. Upper management obviously finds you trustworthy, because they made you the acting supervisor. Your new boss, however, is in unfamiliar territory and may not yet know whom to trust.

As a novice manager in a strange environment, Stacy is undoubtedly anxious to prove herself. Unfortunately, she is apparently trying to do this by controlling as much of the work as possible. While she would be expected to assume the supervisory duties, appropriating your tasks was a bonehead move that is quite likely to backfire.

Under these circumstances, Stacy is likely to view any offers of assistance as an attempt to reclaim your territory. So instead of focusing on her work, start by simply trying to get to know her. Ask about her previous experience and share insights about your company. Seek out her opinions and explore her ideas for your department.

Once Stacy believes you are on her side, she is more likely to trust you. And once she trusts you, she is more likely to delegate. So instead of feeling resentful and hurt, take the high road and start building bridges with your boss. In reality, this whole situation is much more about Stacy than about you.

Q: One member of our manufacturing team is a total slacker. "Chad" takes frequent breaks and shows absolutely no interest in meeting production goals. While the rest of us are working, he looks for other things to do in the plant. I usually fill in for Chad so that we can meet our daily objectives, but this is getting old. I talked with the supervisor, but so far nothing has changed. What should I do now?

A: Simply put, you must stop doing Chad's work. As long as production goals are being met, your supervisor will feel no pressure to address the problem. But if you quit covering for Chad, his freeloading will soon be exposed.

If you wish to hasten this process, ask some other team members to join you in talking with your boss. Chad's behavior is a group problem, so you should not have to tackle it alone.

Nation

Public smoke-out marks pot holiday in Colorado

AP

Ed Forchion, a pro-marijuana activist known as NJ Weedman, carries a large cross with likeness of a marijuana leaf as he walks with a group of activists along State Street in Trenton, N.J., Sunday, April 20, 2014.

DENVER (AP)—Tens of thousands of revelers raised joints, pipes and vaporizer devices to the sky Sunday at a central Denver park in a defiant toast to the April 20 pot holiday, a once-underground celebration that stepped into the mainstream in the first state in the nation to legalize recreational marijuana.

The 4:20 p.m. smoke-out in the shadow of the Colorado capitol was the capstone of an Easter weekend dedicated to cannabis in states across the country. Although it is still against the law to publicly smoke marijuana in Colorado, police reported only 130 citations or arrests over the course of the two-day event, 92 for marijuana consumption.

"It feels good not to be persecuted anymore," said Joe Garramone, exultantly smoking a joint while his 3-year-old daughter played on a vast lawn crowded with fellow smokers.

The Garramone family came from Hawaii, among the tens of thousands who crowded into various cannabis-themed extravaganzas, from a marijuana industry expo called the Cannabis Cup at a trade center north of downtown to 4/20-themed concerts at the legendary Red Rocks Amphitheater. Acts included Slightly Stoopid and Snoop Dogg.

At 4:20 p.m., an enormous plume of marijuana smoke wafted into the sky above downtown Denver as rapper B.o.B. belted out his song "Strange Clouds," with the hook: "And all we do is light it up, all night/All you see is strange clouds/Strange clouds, strange clouds."

The Civic Center Park event is the most visible sign of the pot holiday's transformation. It started as a defiant gathering of marijuana activists, but this year the event has an official city permit, is organized by an events management company and featured booths selling funnel cakes and Greek food next to kiosks hawking hemp lollipops and glass pipes.

Gavin Beldt, one of the organizers, said in a statement that the event is now a "celebration of legal status for its use in Colorado and our launch of an exciting new experience for those attending."

Denver is just one of many cities across the country where 4/20 marijuana celebrations were planned Sunday.

In Trenton, N.J., speakers urged a crowd of about 150 gathered at the statehouse to push state and federal lawmakers to legalize or decriminalize marijuana and called on Gov. Chris Christie to do what he can to help medical marijuana patients. Among those at the rally was Jawara McIntosh, the youngest son of noted reggae musician and pro-marijuana activist Peter Tosh.

In San Francisco, thousands of revelers gathered at Golden Gate Park's Hippie Hill, which has become the go-to spot for the unsanctioned festival every year.

City officials said they would be cracking down on illegal parking, camping, drug sales, underage drinking and open alcohol containers. Hippie Hill was covered in canopies as dozens of people sold pot-laced cookies, brownies and other items. Some vendors told the San Francisco Chronicle that sales were slow because so many people were peddling the treats.

Officer Danielle Newman said at least eight people face possible felony charges, but she didn't elaborate on the reasons for their arrests.

ACROSS THE NATION

16-year-old survives in wheel well of Maui flight

HONOLULU (AP)—A 16-year-old boy stowed away in the wheel well of a flight from California to Hawaii on Sunday, surviving the trip halfway across the Pacific Ocean unharmed despite frigid temperatures at 38,000 feet and a lack of oxygen, FBI and airline officials said. FBI spokesman Tom Simon in Honolulu told The Associated Press on Sunday night that the boy was questioned by the FBI after being discovered on the tarmac at the Maui airport with no identification. "Kid's lucky to be alive," Simon said. Simon said security footage from the San Jose airport verified that the boy from Santa Clara, Calif., hopped a fence to get to Hawaiian Airlines Flight 45 on Sunday morning. The child had run away from his family after an argument, Simon said. Simon said when the flight landed in Maui, the boy hopped down from the wheel well and started wandering around the airport grounds.

4-year-old half siblings die in accidental NY fire

NEW YORK (AP)—A basement blaze that killed 4-year-old half siblings was accidentally set by children playing with fire, authorities said Sunday. The twin of one of the children survived the blaze that was reported to authorities just before midnight Saturday in a two-story brick home in the Far Rockaway section of Queens. Khalid Baylor, spokesman with the Fire Department of New York, said the fire was accidental, but he wouldn't elaborate on exactly what caused it. Within minutes of police and firefighters arriving, the children were carried outside and rescue workers tried to resuscitate them as neighbors watched. The fire was under control less than an hour and a half later.

Sleeping girl killed after car drives into home

PALMDALE, Calif. (AP)—Officials say a 16-year-old Southern California girl asleep in her bed has died after a driver accused of being drunk crashed his SUV into her home. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department says that 20-year-old Roberto Rodriguez of Palmdale crashed his Nissan Pathfinder into the corner of an apartment building at 3:50 a.m. Sunday. When deputies arrived, they found the SUV embedded in the building and the girl dead inside.

On eve of marathon, festivities and tight security

BOSTON (AP)—In many ways, it felt like any other pre-marathon Sunday in Boston.

Families celebrated Easter, diners enjoyed the spring weather at sidewalk cafes, and runners—easily identified by their trim builds and colorful jackets—picked up last-minute supplies for what will be the second-largest field in the history of the Boston Marathon.

But even as runners focused on the exhilaration of crossing the finish line, the festive atmosphere was inevitably tinged with sorrow, as runners, family members and spectators recalled the twin bombings at last year's race that killed three people and injured 260.

Marathon runners were blessed at an emotional church service that celebrated Easter and remembered the victims, while heightened security measures, including bag checks, were in place at marathon events.

"It's different, coming back," said Gisele Goldstein, 55, of Germantown, Tenn., who planned to run her 12th Boston Marathon this year. "It's not just me-there's a sadness."

At City Hall, a fast-moving line of several hundred runners and their families stretched around the building, where race organizers served a pre-race pasta dinner.

"So many of us are running this year because of that day," said Justin Jackson, 32, of Chicago.

Preparing for Monday's race has been emotional, he said. While it had not initially occurred to him to be nervous about another terrorist attack, a bomb scare on Tuesday night "regenerated the worry that there might be crazy people out there."

There have been other tense moments—such as when an alarm went off on Friday, during the Runners' Expo at the Hynes Convention Center. People were spooked, Goldstein said, even though it turned out to have been a test.

But runner Susan Campbell, 41, of Waverley, Nova Scotia, said she felt completely safe returning to Boston this year.

"What are the chances of it happening again?" said her husband, Andy Legere, 41, who was planning to cheer her on near the finish line, along with their two daughters.

"I never had any doubts about coming back," Campbell said. Still, she felt a weight this year when she collected her bib near the finish line. "It was a little sad, walking up Boylston Street and remembering."

Ricardo Corral, 53, of New York, who planned to race in the hand-cycle division of the wheelchair race on Monday-his eighth marathon-said he was reassured by the heightened security.

"We are not nervous," he said. "We know the police will be here to protect people."

Corral added that it was especially important to him and his teammates to return this year, to support Boston and each other. "As the signs say, `Boston Strong,'" he said. "That's why we come back."

That determination was echoed by many runners, including Scott Johnson, 54, of Atlanta.

Easter morning delivery for space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Space station astronauts got a special Easter treat: a cargo ship full of supplies.

The shipment arrived Sunday morning via a Dragon, versus a bunny.

"Gentlemen, the Easter Dragon is knocking at the door," NASA's Mission Control said as the capsule was bolted into place.

The SpaceX company's cargo ship, Dragon, spent two days chasing the International Space Station following its launch from Cape Canaveral. Astronauts used a robot arm to capture the capsule 260 miles above Egypt.

More than 2 tons of food, spacewalking gear and experiments fill the Dragon, including mating fruit flies, a little veggie hothouse and legs for the resident robot. NASA also packed family care packages for the six spacemen.

On Wednesday, the stakes will be even higher when the two Americans on board conduct a spacewalk to replace a dead computer. NASA wants a reliable backup in place as soon as possible, even though the primary computer is working fine. The backup failed April 11.

The SpaceX delivery wasn't exactly express. The launch was delayed more than a month. A minor communication problem cropped up during Sunday's rendezvous, but the capture still took place on time and with success.

SpaceX flight controllers, at company headquarters in Hawthorne, Calif., exchanged high-fives, shook hands, applauded and embraced once Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata snared the Dragon with the station's hefty robot arm.

"Great work catching the Dragon," NASA's Mission Control radioed from Houston. "Thanks for getting her on board."

Asia

AP

Rescue team members search for passengers near buoys which were installed to mark the area of the sunken Sewol ferry, in the water off the southern coast near Jindo, south of Seoul, South Korea, Monday, April 21, 2014.

SKorean president: Ferry crew actions 'murderous'

JINDO, South Korea (AP)—South Korean President Park Geun-hye said Monday that the captain and some crewmembers of the sunken ferry committed "unforgivable, murderous acts" in the disaster, which left more than 300 people dead or missing.

The captain initially told passengers to stay in their rooms and waited more than half an hour to issue an evacuation order as the ferry *Sewol* sank Wednesday. By then the ship had tilted so much that many of the roughly 240 people missing are believed to be trapped inside.

At a Cabinet briefing, Park said the captain and crew "told the passengers to stay put but they themselves became the first to escape, after deserting the passengers."

"Legally and ethically," she said, "this is an unimaginable act."

The captain and two crewmembers have been arrested on suspicion of negligence and abandoning people in need, and prosecutors said Monday that another four crew members have been detained. Senior prosecutor Ahn Sang-don said prosecutors would decide within 48 hours whether ask a court for arrest warrants for the four—two first mates, a second mate and a chief engineer.

Video showed that captain Lee Joon-seok, 68, was among the first people rescued. Some of his crew said he had been hurt, but a doctor who treated him said he had no fracture and only light injuries.

Lee spoke of "pain in the left rib and in the back, but that was it," Jang Ki-joon, director of the orthopedic department of Jindo Hankook University. Jang said he did not realize Lee was the captain until after he treated him.

So far 64 bodies have been recovered, and about 240 people remain missing. About 225 of the missing and dead are students from a single high school near Seoul who were on their way to the southern tourist island of Jeju.

As divers increasingly make their way into the submerged ship, including a new entryway through the dining hall Monday, there's been a big jump in the discovery of corpses. And that means that on Jindo, an island near where the ferry sank, relatives of the missing must look at sparse details such as gender, height, hair length and clothing to see if their loved ones have been found.

There are no names listed as relatives huddle around white signboards to identify bodies from a sunken ferry—just the slimmest of clues about mostly young lives now lost. Many favored hoodies and track pants. One girl painted her fingernails red and toenails black. Another had braces on her teeth.

"I'm afraid to even look at the white boards," said Lim Son-mi, 50, whose 16-year-old daughter, Park Hye-son, has not been found. "But because all the information is quite similar, whenever I look at it, my heart breaks."

Relatives have already lined up to give DNA samples at the gymnasium where many of them are staying, to make bodies easier to identify when they are recovered.

A transcript released by the coast guard Sunday shows the ship, which carried 476 people, was crippled by confusion and indecision well after it began listing Wednesday.

About 30 minutes after the *Sewol* began tilting, a crewmember repeatedly asked a marine traffic controller whether passengers would be rescued if they abandoned ship off South Korea's southern coast.

That followed several statements from the ship that people aboard could not move and another in which someone said that it was "impossible to broadcast" instructions.

An unidentified official at Jindo Vessel Traffic Services Center told the crew that they should "go out and let the passengers wear life jackets and put on more clothing."

Delay in ferry evacuation puzzles maritime experts

MOKPO, South Korea (AP)—It is a decision that has maritime experts stumped and is at odds with standard procedure: Why were the passengers of the doomed South Korean ferry told to stay in their rooms rather than climb on deck?

Evacuations can be chaotic and dangerous, and an important principle in maritime circles is that even a damaged ship may be the best lifeboat. But car ferries like the *Sewol*, which left about 300 people missing or dead when it sank Wednesday, are different.

Under certain conditions—like those that confronted the *Sewol*—car ferries are particularly susceptible to rapid capsizing. This makes it critically important that when there is trouble, the crew quickly evacuate passengers, or at least gather them in preparation to abandon ship.

Though experienced, the captain of the *Sewol*, Lee Joon-seok, delayed evacuation for at least half an hour after the ship began tipping. Passengers, most of them teenagers on holiday, were initially told to stay below deck.

"If you would have not said a word to them, they would have left to the deck to see what was going on," and a crucial step in any evacuation would have been accomplished, said Mario Vittone, a former U.S. Coast Guard maritime accident investigator and inspector. "They certainly made it worse than saying nothing at all."

Lee has worked about four decades at sea, split between ferries and ocean freighters. A representative for his employer, Chonghaejin Marine Co. Ltd., told Yonhap News Agency that he has sailed the company's route from Incheon, near Seoul, to the southern island of Jeju for eight years. A member of his crew, Oh Yong-seok, told The Associated Press that Lee worked on the ferry about 10 days per month.

After his arrest Saturday on suspicion of negligence and abandoning people in need, Lee apologized for "causing a disturbance" but defended his decision to wait.

"At the time, the current was very strong, the temperature of the ocean water was cold, and I thought that if people left the ferry without (proper) judgment, if they were not wearing a life jacket, and even if they were, they would drift away and face many other difficulties," Lee said. "The rescue boats had not arrived yet, nor were there any civilian fishing ships or other boats nearby at that time."

Malaysia, Flight 370 relatives talk financial help

PERTH, Australia (AP)—As the search continued off the coast of Australia for the missing Malaysia Airlines jet, the airline announced another plane bound for India was forced to make an emergency landing early Monday after one of its tires burst on takeoff.

All 159 passengers and seven crew members arrived safely back in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, about 2 a.m., about four hours after the plane took off for Bangalore, India. The incident was more drama for an airline already under immense pressure for answers from the public and the families of those missing from Flight 370, more than six weeks after it departed the same airport.

Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Hamzah Zainuddin met with the passengers' relatives in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday to talk about where to go next. Financial assistance was discussed and family members were urged to submit a plan for consideration. He declined to elaborate further, but said a fund could possibly be set up by the government or Malaysia Airlines.

The relatives, however, expressed dissatisfaction with the meeting, saying in a statement that until they have "at least a tiny bit of concrete evidence" that the plane crashed, authorities should not try to settle the case with final payoffs.

"No meaningful report on the progress of the investigation was given" at the meeting, the relatives said, adding that "not a single one" of their questions was answered.

"We realize this is an excruciating time for the families of those on board," said Zainuddin, who heads a committee overseeing the needs of the next of kin. "No words can describe the pain they must be going through. We understand the desperate need for information on behalf of the families and those watching around the world."

WORLD BRIEFS

Malaysia Airlines jet turns back after tire burst

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysia Airlines flight heading to India with 166 people aboard made an emergency landing in Kuala Lumpur early Monday after it was forced to turn back when a tire burst upon takeoff, the airline said. The airline said Flight 192 to Bangalore in southern India landed safely at Kuala Lumpur International Airport at 1:56 a.m. (1756 GMT) Monday, about four hours after it departed. The airline initially said the right landing gear of the Boeing 737-800 "malfunctioned upon takeoff" but later added that the problem was caused by a burst tire. "This was because one of the tires on the right-hand main landing gear burst during takeoff," the airline said in its latest statement emailed to The Associated Press. .

Anti-junta Myanmar journalist Win Tin dies at 85

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Win Tin, a prominent journalist who became Myanmar's longest-serving political prisoner after challenging military rule by co-founding the National League for Democracy, died Monday, He was 85. He had been hospitalized with respiratory problems since March 12 and died at Yangon General Hospital. A former newspaper editor, Win Tin was a close aide to opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, another founder in 1988 of the pro-democracy party. In 1989, she was put under house arrest and Win Tin was sent to prison for his political activities. His sentence was extended twice for various reasons, the second time for writing a letter to the United Nations.

World

Ukraine, Russia trade blame for shootout in east

BYLBASIVKA, Ukraine (AP)—Within hours of an Easter morning shootout at a checkpoint manned by pro-Russia insurgents in eastern Ukraine, Russia's Foreign Ministry issued a statement blaming militant Ukrainian nationalists and Russian state television stations aired pictures of supposed proof of their involvement in the attack that left at least three people dead.

The Ukrainian Security Service, however, said the attack was staged by provocateurs from outside the country. And the presented evidence—particularly a pristine business card said to have been left behind by the attackers—was met with widespread ridicule in Ukraine, where it soon had its own Twitter hashtag.

The armed clash early Sunday near the city of Slovyansk appeared to be the first since an international agreement was reached last week in Geneva to ease tensions in eastern Ukraine, where armed pro-Russia activists have seized government buildings in at least 10 cities.

AP

Masked pro-Russia insurgents show a detained man, who reportedly is a member of the Right Sector, a nationalist Ukrainian group, when people gathered at barricades in front of a regional administration building that was seized by pro-Russian activists earlier in Donetsk, Ukraine, Sunday, April 20, 2014.

Ukraine's new leaders and many in the West fear that such clashes could provide a pretext for Russia to seize more Ukrainian territory.

Russia, which annexed the Crimean Peninsula last month, has tens of thousands of troops along its border with Ukraine. Russian officials, including President Vladimir Putin, originally said the troops were there for military exercises, but Putin's spokesman on Saturday acknowledged that some were there because of instability in eastern Ukraine.

The self-proclaimed mayor of Slovyansk appealed to Putin on Sunday to send in peacekeeping troops to protect Russian speakers from Ukrainian nationalists.

"They want to make us slaves. They don't talk to us, but simply kill us," Vyacheslav Ponomaryov said during a news conference in Slovyansk shown on Rossiya state television.

Yuri Zhadobin, who coordinates the pro-Russia unit manning the checkpoint in the village of Bylbasivka, told The Associated Press he was with about 20 men celebrating Easter when unknown men drove up in four vehicles and opened fire about 3 a.m.

Ahead of vote, Syria's Assad visits seized village

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's embattled president marked Easter with a tour Sunday of an ancient Christian village recently recaptured by his forces, an important symbolic prize for his government ahead of coming presidential elections he appears poised to contest.

President Bashar Assad's visit to Maaloula, some 60 kilometers (40 miles) northeast of Damascus, serves a propaganda victory for his government in its quest to be seen as protector of religious minorities as its civil war grinds on.

Meanwhile, questions continue to swirl about allegations of recent poison gas attacks in the country, with French officials saying Sunday there were indications that Assad's forces were behind them.

Rebels, including fighters from the al-Qaida-affiliated Nusra Front, seized Maaloula several times late last year, most recently in December. Government troops swept through the village on Monday, sending rebel fighters fleeing to nearby hills.

Despite damage to holy sites in the village, Assad told Syrian state television: "Maaloula will remain steadfast in the face of barbarism of all those who are targeting the homeland."

"Nobody, regardless of the extent of their terror, can erase our cultural and human history," the state news agency quoted Assad as saying as he surveyed damage to the Mar Takla Greek Orthodox monastery in the village.

Assad promised to defend Christians—who make up about 10 percent of Syria's prewar population of 23 million—and protect churches that he said were part of the country's cultural heritage. Syria's civil war has seen Islamic extremists and radical foreign fighters join the fight and target Christians and their houses of worship.

Many of Syria's patchwork of minority Christian and Muslim faiths support Assad or have remained neutral, fearing for their fate should hardline rebel groups seize power.

Assad's visit, while highlighting the recent gains his forces have made around the capital and along the Lebanese border, also took on the air of a campaign-style event. On Monday, Syria's parliament will open registration for presidential candidates in its upcoming election, scheduled to be held this summer.

Assad has not publicly said he will run, but is widely expected to win another seven-year term. That's despite the war entering its fourth year, scattering a third of the population and killing more than 150,000 people, according to activists.

Cuba home woes endure despite real-estate reform

HAVANA (AP)—The residents of 308 Oquendo Street were jolted awake in the middle of the night by violent shaking and a noise that they likened to a freight train, or an exploding bomb.

Part of their building's seventh floor had collapsed into the interior patio, heavily damaging apartments on the floors below. No one died, but the 120 families living in the building were left homeless.

Despite reforms in recent years to address the island's housing problem, such building collapses remain common in Cuba, where decades of neglect and a dearth of new home construction have left untold thousands of islanders living in crowded structures at risk of suddenly falling down.

When President Raul Castro legalized a real estate market for the first time in five decades, it was supposed to stimulate both new construction and maintenance of existing homes. But 2 1/2 years later, there has been only a minimal impact on easing one of Cuba's biggest challenges: a chronic lack of suitable housing.

"We are very worried. The housing situation is critical in Cuba," said Anaidis Ramirez, among those displaced by the Feb. 28 building collapse in the densely populated Central Havana neighborhood.

Ramirez and dozens of other neighbors camped out for weeks on sidewalks and in a nearby parking garage to press authorities to find them decent homes. Some went to stay with relatives, while others found housing in cramped government shelters where families can be trapped for years until a permanent home opens up.

Cuba, a country of about 11 million people, lacks around 500,000 housing units to adequately meet the needs of the island's citizens, according to the most recent government numbers from 2010. The housing deficit widens each year as more buildings fall further into disrepair, punished year-round by the tropical sun, sea and wind.

Sergio Diaz-Briquets, a U.S.-based demographer who has written about the island's housing deficit, estimated the figure is now somewhere between 600,000 and 1 million.

And, he said, adding in the existing units that are structurally unsound or otherwise unfit for occupancy, the true deficit "could be even greater."

In tandem with legalizing the real estate market, authorities are trying to tackle the problem by handing over warehouses, former retail spaces and other underused buildings to be converted into housing. They also created construction subsidies for Cubans looking to repair or expand existing homes.

WORLD BRIEFS

8 killed in Finland parachutist plane accident

HELSINKI (AP)—Finnish officials say eight people died when a small plane carrying parachutists crashed to the ground and caught fire. Det. Supt. Petri Kangas said three people survived the accident Sunday after they parachuted from the aircraft above Jamijarvi airfield, about 70 kilometers (45 miles) east of the southwestern town of Pori. Kangas said investigators didn't know the cause of the accident but that "apparently some parts fell off the plane before it crashed." Police said the eight victims were found in the badly burned aircraft, a Comp Air 8 kit aircraft, popular among parachutists. Police said all 11 people on board were accounted for and that the three survivors were being treated for minor injuries.

Nicaraguan town drags chained 'Judases'

MASATEPE, Nicaragua (AP)—For 130 years, the people of Masatepe have observed Good Friday by dressing up in colorful masks and costumes and dragging chained "Judases" through the streets of their town in western Nicaragua. Some dress like Roman soldiers. Others don masks designed to inspire fear, although the masks aren't what you might expect in a Holy Week event—they're macabre, post-apocalyptic creations. Long chains are attached to the participants portraying Judas and people drag them around, sometimes symbolically kicking and beating them, to punish them for betraying Jesus Christ. On this day, the "Judases" are known as "the chained ones."

Overdrive

Honda packs more into Fit

By SUSAN CARPENTER
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

With its Fit, Honda hopes it will have a four-wheeled success story comparable to its best-selling vehicle ever—the Super Cub scooter, 76 million of which have been sold since 1958. If "you meet the nicest people on a Honda," as the Super Cub ads claimed back in the day, you'll meet the youngest and most safety-conscious, penny-pinching drivers ever behind the wheel of the 2015 Honda Fit.

For its third overhaul since its 2001 introduction, the Fit builds upon its most alluring attribute—a toppled-egg profile that belies an exceptionally roomy cabin—adding more fuel efficiency, standard safety features and technology without a significant increase in price. The 2015 Fit starts at $16,215, including destination charge.

MCT

The 2015 Honda Fit adds more fuel efficiency, standard safety features and technology without a significant increase in price.

Fuel economy and price being the most important factors in the subcompact market, the Fit re-do, like most subcompact updates, offers more power and more fuel economy. It's propelled with a new direct-injection 1.5-liter four-cylinder engine that ups the horsepower by 11 percent and offers 16 percent better fuel economy than the outgoing model. The fuel economy for the CVT version is 36 mpg combined.

A six-speed manual transmission is available, but most drivers will get the new continuously variable transmission that replaces the five-speed automatic of the outgoing model.

The CVT's greatest triumph is improved fuel economy. But from the driving perspective, it feels slow and, even worse, loud. Despite Honda's efforts to quiet the cabin by tightening the seams of the body panels and adding baffling, the sound of the CVT's groaning effort to accelerate from a dead stop is a sonic intrusion.

The manual version is less loud and more fun, though not as torque-y as the Ford Fiesta 1-liter I drove recently. The manual transmission Fit is less expensive, but it is also less fuel efficient than the CVT, at 32 mpg combined.

Outfitted with a completely new chassis that will also be used in the new compact SUV Honda will trot out at the New York Auto Show next week and sell later this year, the suspension has been upgraded front and rear.

After driving the outgoing Fit to and from Honda's introduction of its replacement in San Diego in late March, the new model felt more planted in the turns. But the more noticeable improvement was to the steering, which felt more precise and easier to move now that its electronic power steering has been equipped with a torque sensor to damp vibration, and the addition of the same motion adaptive feature used on the Civic and Accord. The motion adaptive EPS senses the vehicle's speed and driver's steering behavior and, if it detects instability during cornering or braking, enhances steering force in the direction the driver needs to turn.

Still, what's most impressive about the 2015 Fit is the same as the outgoing model, only more so. It's not only surprisingly spacious for the driver but, with the 2015, also for the rear-seat passengers, who now have a shocking 4.8 inches of additional legroom.

Yes, the decimal is in the right place.

Even when the front seats were pushed all the way back, my long femur bones weren't compressed into my hip sockets. My knees had room to spare. For 2015, Honda reduced the Fit's overall vehicle length by 1.6 inches but increased the wheelbase by 1.2 inches to open up more interior room.

The most unique feature about the Fit is the same act of contortion that allows its rear seats to fold up, creating unfettered space in the second row to easily accommodate cumbersome items like BMX bicycles or, for the urban gardening crowd, bales of hay and cartons of peeping chicks. The Fit's interior can be configured four ways to Sunday, with rear seats that fold flat and a front passenger seat that back bends for maximum load capacity, which remains best in its class.

If nothing else, the Fit is accurately named. For a subcompact, the driver's seat feels spacious and uncluttered—a feeling that was enhanced with a new center console that replaces an array of knobs and buttons and the sliver of a screen that showed the time and radio settings in the old model. A larger touch screen is now standard across all four versions of the Fit, as is a rear-view camera.

The least expensive Fit model, the LX, has a 5-inch screen. The rest get 7-inchers. The more expensive EX is when the value really begins to ratchet up. A moonroof is standard, as are push-button start and a terrific lane-watch display that uses a camera mounted below the passenger side mirror to show whatever it sees on the right-hand side of the car on the center screen. The same lane-watch feature is standard on Honda's larger, more expensive Accord and Civic.

Like many automakers, Honda is leveraging drivers' smartphones to provide navigation services. It is not built in to the car except for the most expensive model, the EX-L Navi. The other three versions of the Fit all use HondaLink, Honda's next-generation in-car connectivity system.

HondaLink is an app that drivers download to their phones and sync with their cars. The advantage to the updated HondaLink app is that it's useable inside and outside the car. For navigation, drivers can program their destinations into the app before sliding into the driver's seat, negating the need to fumble with buttons while driving. In addition, the app can read aloud, through the car's speakers, the driver's Facebook feeds and texts.

Stylewise, the new Fit has been modernized with sharper lines and a more aerodynamic shape that is especially noticeable in the front, where the headlights have been narrowed and integrated into the grille. The interior is comparable to the outgoing model, with a mix of economy-oriented soft-touch plastics and fabrics.

With its 2015 redesign, the most impressive features of the Fit have been amplified. Whether they're enough to nudge the Fit's 5.16 million global sales toward the super-sales status of the Super Cub will take decades to find out. But its fuel economy, low purchase price and large interior space are a winning combination.

NUTS & BOLTS

2015 Honda Fit EX:

- Powertrain: Direct-injected, 1.5-liter, four-cylinder, DOHC, VTC, VTEC, continuously variable transmission
- Horsepower: 130 at 6,500 rpm
- Torque: 114 pound-feet at 4,600 rpm
- Curb weight: 2,573 pounds
- Wheelbase: 99.6 inches
- Overall length: 160 inches
- EPA-estimated fuel economy: 33 mpg city, 41 mpg highway, 36 mpg combined
- Base price: $16,215
- Price as tested: $19,025

Prices include destination charge.

MOTORING Q&A:

Tire pressure sensors only exist in later RAV4s

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: We have a 2010 Toyota RAV4 that had the same tire pressure light problem noted in your recent column. Took the car to the dealer as I was mystified—all four tires were within 1 to 2 pounds of each other in pressure. Final solution—the spare tire was low on air.

ANSWER: I received a number of similar responses to the question regarding the low tire warning light on the 2005 RAV4—thank all of you for taking the time to share your experiences.

In the case of the 2005 RAV4, however, the spare tire cannot be the culprit for the simple reason that the spare does not have a tire pressure sensor installed. In fact, none of the tires have an internal pressure sensor.

As I described in my original answer, this vehicle has an indirect tire pressure sensing system that does not rely on individual tire pressure sensors. Rather, it utilizes ABS wheel speed sensors to recognize differences in rotational speed of the wheels while the vehicle is in motion. Assuming all four tires are the same make, size and circumference, significantly low tire pressure could cause a tire to have an effectively shorter radius—distance between wheel centerline to pavement surface—and thus rotate at a different speed. At a certain threshold of differential speed and resonance, the low tire warning light will be triggered.

Q: I have a 2000 Ford Explorer that for the past two years won't start in cold weather. I tap on the fuel tank and it starts. A shop checked all sensors and does not think it is a fuel pump problem because it happens so seldom. Besides, it's a $600 repair. Any suggestions?

A: Have the shop monitor the amperage "draw" of the fuel pump. The fuel pump of the 4-liter engine delivers 55-65 psi fuel pressure with the key on and the engine not running. As a general rule, electric fuel pumps draw roughly one ampere of current per 10 psi of fuel pressure, so the pump for this engine should draw roughly 7 amps. Significantly higher current draw is indicative of high electrical resistance in the circuit or pump. As does that "tap" on the bottom of the fuel pump to vibrate the pump enough to get it started—another clear sign of a failing fuel pump.

Q: I have a 2001 Dodge Dakota with V-8 engine, 4WD and automatic transmission. When driving down the highway, occasionally the engine RPM will shoot up, then drop back down. There is no slip in the transmission or loss of speed. Would this be a sensor or module for the transmission? Or is the transmission getting ready to quit?

A: If there actually is no sudden slippage or change of gear in the transmission, the issue is likely with the instrument cluster and/or tachometer. But if you hear the engine actually rise in RPM, the transmission must be downshifting, unlocking the torque converter or slipping.

Try depressing the brake pedal slightly and/or manually downshifting from overdrive back to drive—do either of these actions replicate what you're experiencing? If so, the powertrain control model, or PCM, may be sensing a need for more power and commanding these actions. A scan tool may be helpful in identifying any issues with the **transmission or its control module.**

Q: I bought a 2005 GMC Canyon in 2006 with 31,000 miles on it. The Hankook tires on it when I bought it still look new and I can't see any checking. I have driven only 6,000 more miles it since I bought it. Do you think I can still put more miles on them without problems?

A: In my opinion, yes. While tires do deteriorate over time, it sounds like the tires on your vehicle are still entirely serviceable. To make sure, have them inspected by a tire shop annually. Unless there's an identifiable problem, they should remain serviceable at least 10 years with your low annual mileage.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, *is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at:* Star Tribune, *425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.*

Life & Style

A monthlong celebration of poetry in April

April is National Poetry Month, a monthlong, national celebration of poetry established by the Academy of American Poets as a way to increase awareness and appreciation of poetry in the United States. To mark the occasion, Tinian English teacher Joseph Connolly and an anonymous contributor submitted the following poems for publication:

Glaring Signs

By ANONYMOUS

I never thought we'd live to see the day
That crisis would be a disguise of their plan to pave the way

A supposed pathway to riches for some of their closest members
Implemented with such callous disregard, our ancestors would tremble

Their flip-flopping around the issues has managed to prevail,
While most of us affected, take a deep breath and sigh as we exhale

Their clamor of offered solutions and quick-fixes has left us in disarray
While many of us are simply wishing, "Please…just take these problems away."

—Written with Sympathy

More boomer sonnets

By JOSEPH B. CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

More boomer sonnets: the 'p' list- pizza, pasta, and puke; the 'o' list—oatmeal, old sot and old sod; the 'r' list—reaching, rescuing

PIZZA PIECE

There's a baker coated with flour trying
To make a pizza. His dough is soft and small
He throws it up, till its big and round, to fall
On the grill sweet Italian sausage frying

In a pub hungry ball fans all buying
They're waiting patiently sipping a beer
Until that fresh baked pizza will appear
There's a baker coated with flour trying

I am a juicy ripe tomato waiting
Until the knife comes and cuts and makes a slice
Into me or a lemon for an Italian ice
Some chianti, a bottle of Peroni
Let's hope the baker adds lots of pepperoni
I am a juicy ripe tomato waiting

TO GOBS of MICHEL ANGEL HAIR PASTA on the WALLS of the TRYSTING APPLE*

You've grown rotund from boiling in the pot
like those fat cats around villages in Sicily
and other Mediterranean islands that hap to be
building a dome atop my already big gut
my beard turns up to heaven, big stomach out
pulling on my spine, waist all bloated
growing like a watermelon, marinara coated
pork loins cook with thyme and a little lard
a roast pork butt is on the menu slate
pigs feet as well have entered the flow
sausage skin grows firm and hard
with bending it fits easier on the plate
on top the pasta we'll grate some Asiago

**title appropriated from Michelangelo Buonarotti's* To Giovanni Da Pistoja on the Painting of the Sistine Chapel.

DAMN! HE PUKED!*

Puke be not proud though oft some have called thee
Upchuck and Awful for thou art not so
For those who think your throat must always throw
Vomit not your puke, you can't make sick me
From alcohol and drugs thy origin be
Sour stomach? from thee much more will flow
And to the lavatory you must go
Coming up through your nose as you pee pee
You were born of gluttony as fat folks
With excessive and deep fried fats do dwell
Cotton candy, fried Twinkies, pork rind smell
Perhaps worst of all those fried fat food jokes
Despite the offense, the stench, and the stink
Shakes and soft drinks you continue to drink

**Title appropriated from John Donne's* Death Rebuked.

THE OLD SOT and THE OLD SOD

If I should pass out think but this of me
That there's a small corner of this old pub
That is forever Ireland. And will be
A place you can eat some decent pub grub
Outside is Ireland, the sot is aware
He's back there in his drunken present state
Tasting Irish cheese, eating Irish fare
Washed down with beer, a corned beef cabbage plate
He'll have one more pint, drink it right away
A drop now, of Tullamore Dew no less
Takes him back, his thought by Ireland given
His earphones sing with Irish harps today
Laoise Kelly, Teada, Seamus Ennis
His heart at piece in an Irish heaven

FROM ALPHA BITS TO OAT MEGA MEAL

Oatmeal had to be at the beginning
Grains softened in a hot rock pot boil
Mega industries produced the winning
Cereal sales - corn syrup corn oil
Those steel cut Irish oats found in tin cans
Cooked for a while in a cast iron pot
Mixed with some cream and brown sugar when hot
Win hands down over cold cereal fans
Those alpha bits just sugary color
Full of stale air for the unsuspecting elf
Sit in a pool of milk getting duller
How long have they been sitting on the shelf
Nuff alpha bits? Skip the bacon and egger
Put on the pot for oatmeal. OMEGA!

ON REACHING AGE 63 (40 YEARS PAST JOHN MILTON'S 23)

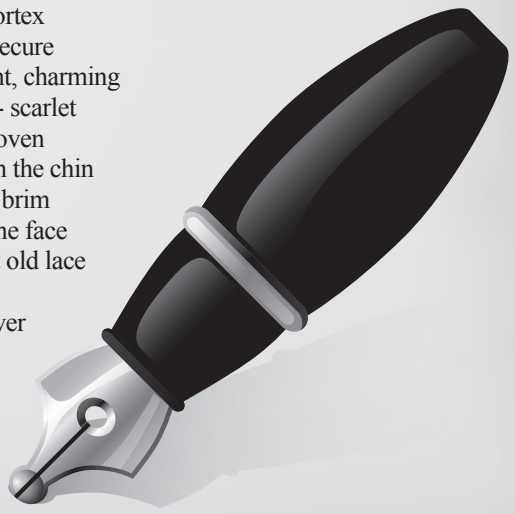
How soon hath TIME magazine writ us up
Using us for sales in our sixty third year
As we slide out slowly from our career
Our Boomer years quickly filling the cup
Perhaps its proximity to sixty-four
When Ringo asked about your need
And if now our toothless mouths you would feed
If you did then, "... who could ask for more?"
As our knees crumble and we begin to slow
Trying to avoid major surgery
Too many ills to commit perjury
Tyrant TIME stops for not a soul. Oh no!
All's well to retire around sixty-six
Just need to keep getting some youthful kicks

RESCUING STUPID

On the wrong side of fences did Stupid dance
He's dying if he's lying lost in a trance
Just unlucky again he's missed his chance
Thrust up agaist him ripening romance
Off his old heart Cupid's arrow did glance
I hoped his intelligence to enhance
To learn to try on some letters from France
He doesn't quite need soul and brain transplants
Been pruned and uprooted like potted plants
How can I help his love's growth to advance
Now finding his own stupid ignorance
I taught him to wear the family pants
Start thinking," I can" and stop all those, "I can'ts"
Reality checks from love's friendly finance

SONNET ON A BOOMER'S GRANDMA'S BONNET

Covering - the head
boomer spirits soar
skull helping hold
cerebral cortex
tight and secure
complacent, charming
Protected - scarlet
ribbons woven
underneath the chin
a firm sun brim
shadows the face
some tight old lace
from Saba
worn forever



Sen. Warren's book focuses on working family woes

BOSTON (AP)—At the beginning of her new book, "A Fighting Chance," U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren describes the moment she grew up.

She was 12, living in Oklahoma with her family, and noticed her mother putting on a dress for a job interview to answer telephones at a local Sears store. Warren's father had had a heart attack and bills were piling up.

Her mother's stubborn insistence to hold onto the family home not only sets the young girl on the path to adulthood but also lays out the larger theme of Warren's life work: the struggle of working families to get a fair deal in an economic and political system rigged against them.

It's a narrative that runs throughout her story, from breaking out of a rigid homemaker role of the 1960s, to landing a job as a Harvard law professor, to becoming a U.S. senator from Massachusetts.

There are plenty of familiar characters who pop up along the way.

Warren recalls her first meeting with the late U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy to ask him to help stall a bankruptcy bill she said would jeopardize homeowners and benefit big banks.

At the meeting, Warren abandons her charts and graphs and relies instead on tales of families broken by "a cascade of financial problems and crushing debt."

Warren said Kennedy was sold—and kept his word.

A few years later, she received a call and heard a man shouting: "We showed those (expletives). They shouldn't mess with us!" Warren said she was about to hang up when she realized the caller was Kennedy explaining how he and other Democrats had blocked the bill.

Although her side would ultimately lose, Warren credits Kennedy and others with staving off defeat for years.

The story can sometimes read like a political Horatio Alger tale of a small-town girl learning the down and dirty ways of the big city—in this case, Washington.

That includes Warren's stint as head of the Congressional Oversight Panel—designed to monitor the $700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Fund intended to bail out the financial system—and her work creating the Consumer Financial Protection Agency to help root out financial traps.

Warren isn't shy about turning her criticism on herself at times. She describes a bungled appearance on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" that began with her vomiting before heading out on stage after a bout of stage fright.

At other times, Warren portrays herself as willing to push back against party leaders.

She describes one meeting with President Barack Obama where the two locked horns over her futile hope of being named head of the financial protection agency she helped create.

Warren, whose nomination was running into Republican headwinds, balked at being given a lesser job she feared would be "all show."

"You're jamming me, Elizabeth," Obama said, warning her not to overplay her hand.

"A Fighting Chance" apparently isn't meant to be a presidential manifesto. Warren has repeatedly insisted she has no interest in running for the White House in 2016.

At other times in the book, scheduled to be published Tuesday, Warren can sound like she's channeling Jimmy Stewart's character in "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," the Hollywood classic about an earnest outsider confronting the uglier realities of politics.

The book can also be self-deprecating—she tells one slapstick episode about how she nearly burned down her house after burning the toast—but is filled with her indignation over what she sees as the plight of struggling families outmatched by the rich and powerful.

Bid, Dick, bid: 'Dick and Jane' artworks for sale

BROOKLINE, N.H. (AP)—In the portrait, the little boy's blue eyes twinkle as he looks straight ahead. His apple cheeks shine. There's a gap in his teeth, and his reddish-brown hair is just slightly tousled. He's an All-American boy.

He's Dick, of the illustrated "Dick and Jane" series that helped teach generations to read from the 1930s to the 1970s.

He's also Nancy Childress' childhood neighbor and the model for the drawing by her father, Robert Childress, that along with Jane, Sally, Spot and others brought the pages of the reader to life.

Nancy Childress is selling her father's artwork at auction in New Hampshire at the end of April. Along with Dick, there are other portraits, black-and-white drawings of John F. and Jackie Kennedy and offerings from his collection of pastel paintings of college buildings around the country.

AP

This photo provided by Brookline Auction Gallery of Brookline, N.H., Friday, April 18, 2014, shows a watercolor by Robert Childress and photos of the model used to paint it.

"As an artist, there were many illustrators during the time my father was working," said Nancy Childress, who lives in Gilmanton. "This was the day of the illustrator. What's different about my father's illustrations is that most could either do landscape or people, and he had the uncanny ability to do both equally well."

Childress' realism will remind the viewer immediately of Norman Rockwell's illustrations and that's not a complete coincidence: The two were friends.

Nancy Childress said her father, who retired to Warner and died in 1983, never took an art class, learning to paint with a set given to him as a gift from an aunt and uncle before he was 10. And he didn't just use the neighbor boy as a model for the series that he illustrated during the 1950s and `60s: Nancy was Sally, her sister Susan became Jane and their mother was also one of Robert Childress' inspirations.

"We loved it," she said. "My sister and I loved getting into costumes. And he would always include us. He would ask us, `What do you think of this? Is it too green? Is it too blue?' But the opinion that mattered was my mother's."

Born in South Carolina, Childress was living in Ithaca, N.Y., when he was commissioned to paint a portrait of H.E. Babcock, a former chairman of the board for Cornell University. Through his connection with Babcock, he met Duncan Hines, the home food entrepreneur whose cakes and other products still stock grocery shelves. Childress painted the portrait of Hines that would adorn his product packaging and Childress launched a career in advertising.

He moved the family to Old Saybrook, Conn., where Childress painted ads for Coca-Cola, Mobil, Wonder Bread and the Campbell Soup Co., among others. Some of the ads are included in the auction.

Auctioneer Ronald Pelletier of Brookline Auction Gallery said estimates for the roughly 50 lots of Childress art run from $100 to $2,000 and because it is an "absolute auction" there is no reserve bid, meaning the lowest bid wins. He said there is a market for original art, but he couldn't predict how the Childress collections would fare.

He is most struck by how multidisciplined Childress was.

"I mean, the man could work in any medium," he said.

The live online auction will be held April 30.

'Capt. America' tops box office for third week

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Captain America continues to vanquish box office foes, triumphing in ticket sales for the third consecutive week and dominating over megastar Johnny Depp's new movie.

"Captain America: The Winter Soldier" added another $26 million to its coffers, according to studio estimates Sunday, while Depp's sci-fi thriller, "Transcendence," opened in fourth place with $11 million.

Directed by longtime Christopher Nolan cinematographer Wally Pfister, the Warner Bros. film is Depp's third consecutive box office disappointment. He played Tonto in last summer's "The Lone Ranger"—one of the biggest flops of 2013—and starred in 2012's comedy-horror dud, "Dark Shadows."

"As we approach the summer movie season, box-office drawing power becomes more about the concept of the movie rather than its star," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "It may not have been so much (about) Johnny Depp, but audiences right now like brands that they know."

Another new movie, the religious-themed "Heaven Is for Real," debuted in third place over Easter weekend, while another sequel, "Rio 2," held on to the second spot.

Faith-based films are performing well, Dergarabedian said, with four releases in the domestic top 20.

"The Winter Soldier" set a box-office record as the biggest April release ever when it opened with more than $96 million domestically. Starring Chris Evans as comic book hero Capt. America and Scarlett Johansson as Black Widow, the Disney release has earned more than $200 million to date in North America—the 12th Marvel film to do so.

AP

This image released by Marvel shows Scarlett Johansson in a scene from the film, "Captain America: The Winter Soldier."

1. **"Captain America: The Winter Soldier,"** $26.6 million ($35.3 million international).
2. **"Rio 2,"** $22.5 million ($48 million international).
3. **"Heaven is for Real,"** $21.5 million.
4. **"Transcendence,"** $11.2 million ($17.4 million international).
5. **"A Haunted House 2,"** $9.1 million.
6. **"Draft Day,"** $5.9 million.
7. **"Divergent,"** $5.75 million ($18.1 million international).
8. **"Oculus,"** $5.2 million.
9. **"Noah,"** $5 million ($21.6 million international).
10. **"God's Not Dead,"** $4.8 million.

Prince returns to Warner Bros., new album due soon

LOS ANGELES—After years of releasing his music independently in unconventional ways, Prince has returned to Warner Bros. Records, the label that issued most of his biggest hit singles and albums from the late 1970s into the '90s, and which is set to put out the artist's new studio album at an unspecified date.

"A brand-new studio album is on the way," Prince said in a statement issued Friday, "and both Warner Bros Records and Eye are quite pleased with the results of the negotiations and look forward to a fruitful working relationship."

His use of "Eye" is a playful allusion to his latest project, a stripped-down ensemble called 3rdEyeGirl. Prince recently announced his next album would feature 3rdEyeGirl and be called "Plectrumelectrum," but Friday's announcement didn't specify if that would be the new studio album to which he alluded.

The new contract, announced by Warner Bros. chairman and CEO Cameron Strang, coincides with this year's 30th anniversary reissue of his 1984 blockbuster album and film, "Purple Rain." A deluxe remastered reissue of the album is planned.

Release dates have not been announced for either album, and financial terms of the contract were not revealed.

The announcement also suggested other "long-awaited, previously unreleased material" will be surfacing as a result of the deal, which gives Prince ownership of the master recordings to his biggest hits.

Strang said in the same statement: "Everyone at Warner Bros Records is delighted to be working with Prince once again: he is one of the world's biggest stars and a truly unique talent." ***(Los Angeles Times)***

Discovery Network nixes Everest jump

NEW YORK (AP)—The Discovery Network is canceling a daredevil's planned jump off the summit of Mount Everest in a wing suit next month following the avalanche that killed at least 13 people on Friday.

Network spokeswoman Laurie Goldberg said Sunday that the network's thoughts and prayers go out to the Sherpa community of guides who were the victims of the avalanche.

Jumper Joby Ogwyn already was at Everest in advance of the jump, which was scheduled to be televised live on May 11 worldwide. He was not injured in the avalanche.

Discovery had hoped for big ratings with the stunt, and had scheduled several hours of coverage in anticipation.

Dealer wanted in US for art fraud nabbed in Spain

MADRID (AP)—A Spanish businessman suspected of having dealt in millions of dollars of fake art has been arrested during Easter festivities in southern Spain, officials said Sunday.

Art dealer Jose Carlos Bergantinos Diaz, who is wanted for fraud in the United States, was arrested Friday at a luxury hotel in Seville. The Interior Ministry said he was so surprised by his arrest that he had to be attended by medical workers.

Glafira Rosales, Bergantinos Diaz's partner, was arraigned in New York in August, accused of peddling counterfeit art for 15 years as undiscovered works by world-renowned artists such as Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning.

The indictment charged Rosales with several offenses, saying she had charged two Manhattan art galleries more than $30 million for 63 pieces of fake art. Each was presented as previously unknown works by 20th-century abstract expressionist artists, also including Mark Rothko, Robert Motherwell and Franz Kline.

The canvasses had actually been created by a painter working from a studio at his home in Queens. Each bogus piece was exposed to extreme temperatures and the outdoors to artificially age it, authorities said.

Around 50 of the pieces they peddled were claimed to have been the property of a person of Eastern European ancestry with residences in Switzerland and Mexico who had inherited the works from a relative and wished to remain anonymous, the indictment said.

Prosecutors said the galleries sold the paintings for more than $80 million, earning nearly $48 million in profits.

Bergantinos Diaz is to appear this week before a judge who will rule on the steps for a likely extradition to the U.S.

Whedon film for download

Whedon

NEW YORK (AP)—Joss Whedon is releasing a film he wrote as a $5 digital download, bypassing the normal channels of independent film distribution.

In a video announcement Sunday following the premiere of the supernatural romance "In Your Eyes" at the Tribeca Film Festival, Whedon says the film will immediately be released online via Vimeo On Demand and InYourEyesMovie.com.

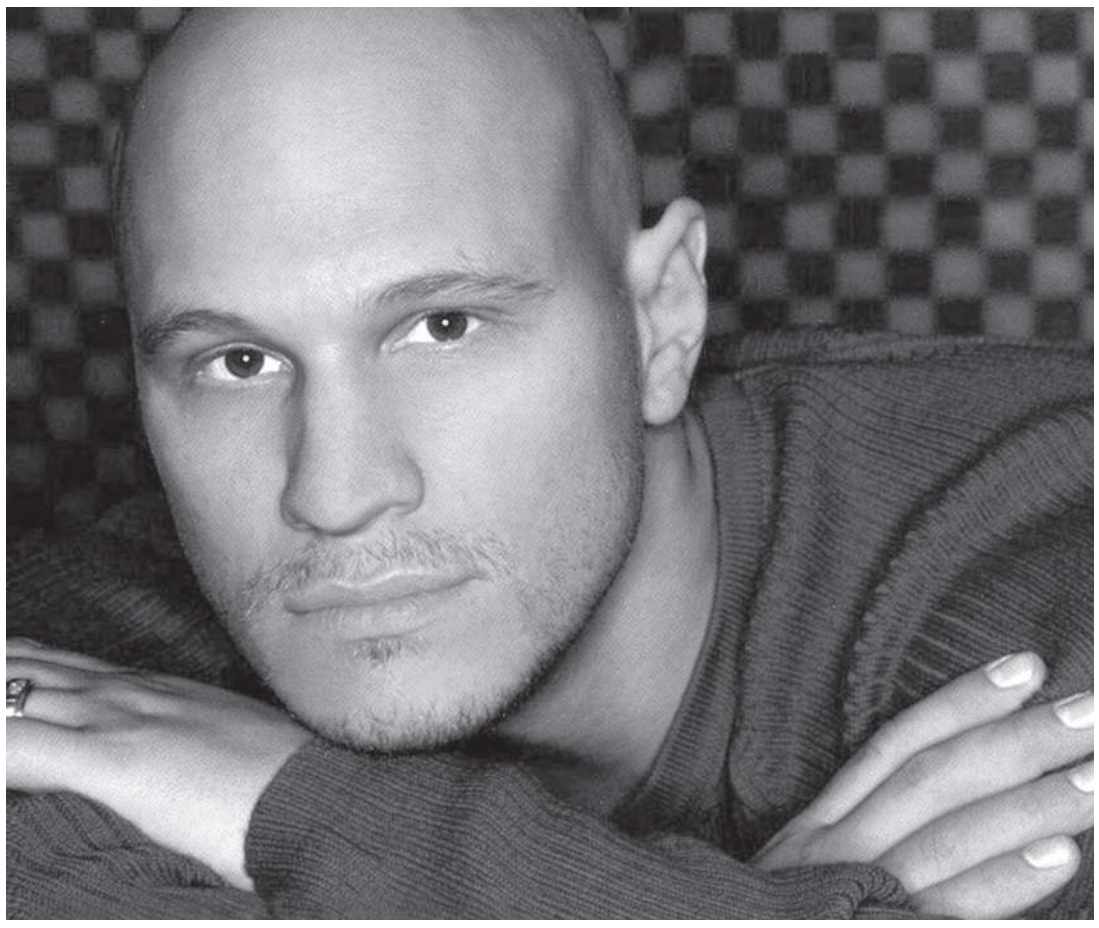
The film stars Zoe Kazan and Michael Stahl-David. Whedon penned and produced it.

The release will be the second film release for Whedon's "micro studio" Bellwether Productions, following last year's adaptation of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing."

Whedon has experimented previously with digital releases. His 2008 miniseries "Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog" was among the first high-profile Web series.

Whedon currently is working on the "Avengers" sequel "Age of Ultron," to be released next year.

Country music singer Kevin Sharp dies at age 43


This image provided by Sue Veldkamp shows a book cover of Kevin Sharp. AP

FAIR OAKS, Calif. (AP)—Kevin Sharp, a country music singer who recorded multiple chart-topping songs and survived a well-publicized battle with cancer, has died. He was 43.

His sister Mary Huston said Sharp died at his mother's Fair Oaks, Calif., home, at 10:49 p.m. Saturday of complications from past stomach surgeries and digestive issues.

"He had a strong heart, that's what kept him alive, (but) I'm so happy for him, that there's no more suffering," Huston said through tears and exhaustion. She had cared for her brother since his return home to Northern California last Friday after 10 weeks in the hospital.

Sharp gained fame with the release of "Nobody Knows," a single on his 1996 debut album, "Measure of a Man." He released two other albums, "Love Is" in 1998 and "Make A Wish" in 2005.

Born in 1970 in Redding, Calif., Sharp was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer, as a high school senior. He overcame it after two years of chemotherapy and radiation.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation granted Sharp's wish to meet Grammy Award-winning music producer David Foster, who gave him tips to help jumpstart his career.

Sharp also became a motivational speaker, a spokesman for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and wrote "Tragedy's Gift," a 2004 book about fighting cancer.

For the last several years, Sharp had struggled from past stomach surgery and residual issues from his aggressive cancer treatment.

"His dream came true through music, and he touched thousands of lives, and he helped heal the soul of people dealing with cancer," Huston said.

Sharp is survived by five brothers, two sisters and his mother.

New portrait unveiled for British queen's birthday

This portrait of Queen Elizabeth II taken and made available at 12:00 GMT Sunday, April 20, 2014, by British photographer David Bailey has been released to mark her 88th birthday on Monday April 21, 2014. AP

LONDON (AP)—A portrait of Queen Elizabeth II by renowned British photographer David Bailey has been unveiled to mark the monarch's 88th birthday.

The black-and-white photograph, taken at Buckingham Palace in March, shows the queen smiling broadly. Bailey described his subject as a "very strong woman" with "very kind eyes with a mischievous glint."

The portrait, unveiled Sunday for the queen's birthday on Monday, was commissioned for a government campaign to promote Britain's heritage and tourism to potential visitors abroad.

Britain's monarchy and royal history is one of the biggest drivers of its strong tourism industry.

The queen celebrates two birthdays each year: Her actual one on Apr. 21 is celebrated privately, while a public ceremony in June marks the occasion with a Trooping the Color parade in London.

Don't meddle in office affair unless it interferes with work

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I manage a group of 15 employees. A few months ago, I hired the wife of an old friend. Until now she has been a great employee, but recently she and a male co-worker have been taking lunches and breaks together in a way that leads me to believe they are flirting or have already crossed the line.

Because we have a small group, I worry about how this will affect my team, who know that she's married. I also feel bad for the husband, who is a very caring and kind man.

As a manager, I don't think I can say anything unless their liaison interferes with their work performance. But I hate to watch this progress and see people end up hurt. What can I do?

MANAGEMENT DECISION

DEAR MANAGEMENT: Unless the flirtation becomes a distraction for "the team," you should stay out of it. Much as you might like to intervene, your friend's wife and this co-worker are adults and responsible for their own behavior.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend watches the 24-hour news channels and seems to be obsessed with them. It is hurting our relationship and affecting her happiness. She's constantly worried about national and international politics, global warming, the economy, health care, crime, etc. She neglects herself and her family. She seems agitated, anxious and depressed by all the news.

Is this a disease? How can I help her get off this habit? What should I do?

MISERABLE IN MINNESOTA

DEAR MISERABLE: Your girlfriend appears to have become a news junkie. She's overstimulated and hooked on the adrenaline rush she gets from channel surfing from one tragedy, outrage and horror to the next. While this may not technically be a disease, it IS exhausting and depressing.

When the same thing started happening to me, I fixed it by turning off the news and going "cold turkey." After a four-day news blackout, I felt like my buoyant self again. Now I ration my exposure. Please share this with your girlfriend because it's what I'm recommending for her.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: At a wedding, while shaking hands with a friend, I accidentally bumped another friend's wine glass, staining his $180 shirt. The stain is a small one, on the lower portion and not very noticeable. Now the man insists I pay for the shirt.

Is there an etiquette rule on this issue? I feel bad, but not bad enough that I think I should pay for such an expensive shirt. If you have the means to pay for a shirt that expensive, I don't believe you should expect others to replace it.

CHRIS IN DENVER

DEAR CHRIS: Good manners dictate that you offer to pay for having the shirt cleaned. A good dry cleaner may be able to remove the stain, but it should be done as soon as possible. Anytime a person has a stained garment, it should be taken to a professional and what caused the stain identified so it can be removed. Trying to treat it yourself can make removal more difficult.

If the stain is permanent, then you should pay to replace the shirt. Ask yourself what's more important—180 bucks or your friendship?

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

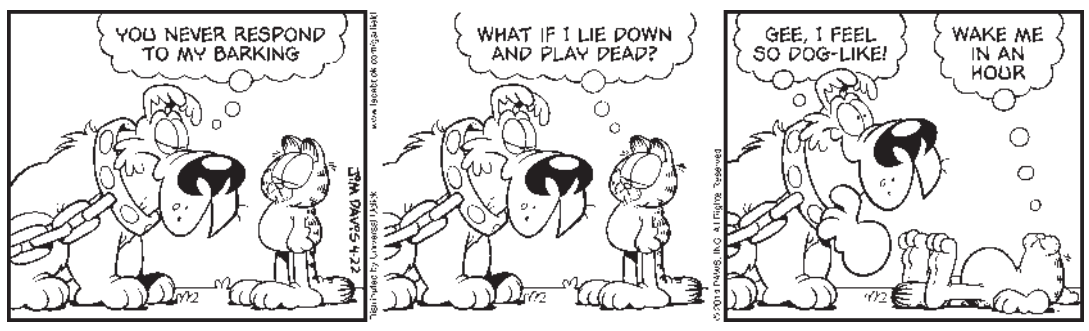
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

A BOLT OF FIERY CRIMSON STREAKS ACROSS THE SKY! IT'S STUPENDOUS MAN!
THE FIENDISH BABY SITTER GIRL HAS A LOCAL HOUSEHOLD IN HER IRON GRIP OF TERROR! THE MAN OF MEGA-MIGHT ZOOMS TO THE RESCUE!
I'M IN LUCK! BABY SITTER GIRL IS MOMENTARILY DISTRACTED!
HI CHARLIE, IT'S ROSALYN. YEAH, I'M OVER AT THE LITTLE MONSTER'S HOUSE AGAIN. HMM? NO, ACTUALLY HE'S BEEN PRETTY GOOD TONIGHT. YEAH, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

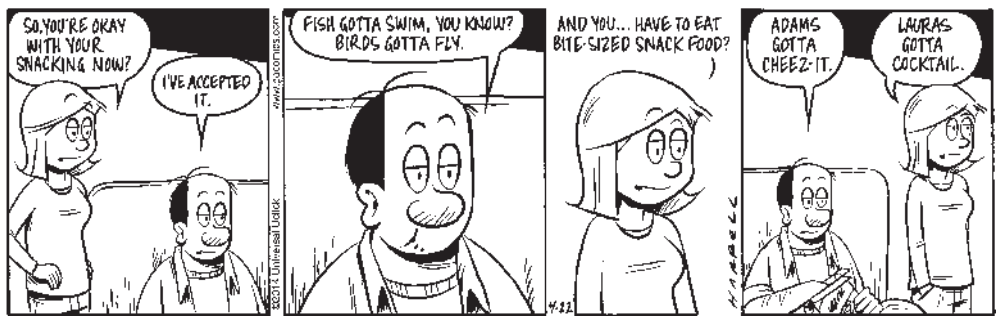
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



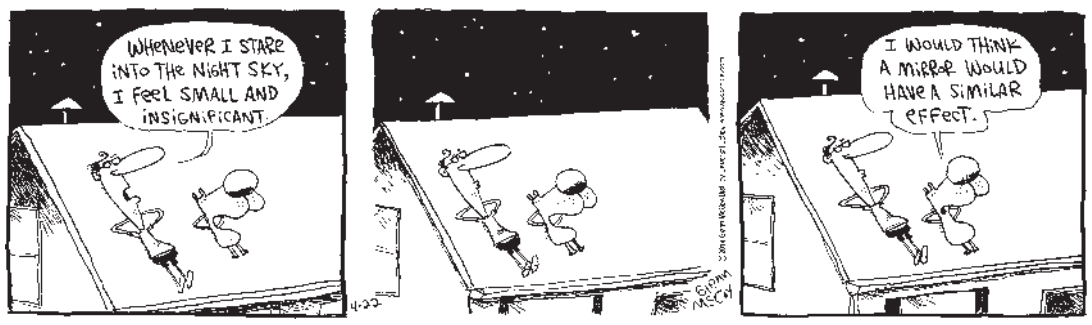
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO, YOU'RE OKAY WITH YOUR SNACKING NOW?
I'VE ACCEPTED IT.
FISH GOTTA SWIM, YOU KNOW? BIRDS GOTTA FLY.
AND YOU... HAVE TO EAT BITE-SIZED SNACK FOOD?
ADAMS GOTTA CHEEZ-IT.
LAURAS GOTTA COCKTAIL.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

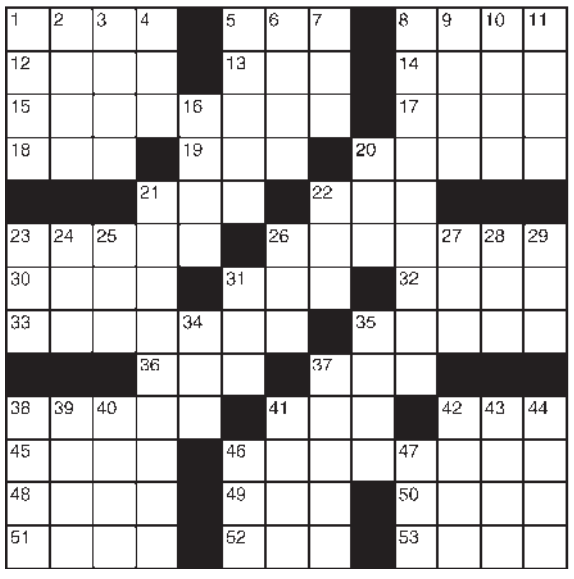
ACROSS
1 Old Greek portico
5 Gratuity
8 Somewhere out there
12 Contact, for one
13 Weeding need
14 Western state, familiarly
15 Mishap
17 Family
18 Commonest English word
19 Cable channel
20 Portable bottle
21 Blackjack component
22 Miss Piggy's pronoun
23 Fast
26 Agreement
30 Grand tale
31 Chesapeake, e.g.
32 Operatic solo
33 Break the rules
35 Watt's power
36 Carpet
37 "Ulalume" writer
38 Cargoes
41 Bando of baseball
42 Neaten the lawn
45 Con
46 Expression of praise
48 Source of veritas
49 Tibetan bovine
50 In the thick of
51 Unsigned (Abbr.)
52 Type units
53 Skillets

DOWN
1 Bed frame piece
2 Georgia or Cal
3 Formerly
4 "— was saying ..."
5 "We hold — truths ..."
6 New Rochelle college
7 Favorite
8 Adapt
9 FDR's pooch
10 "Oh, woe!"
11 Skaters' venue
16 Aflac mascot
20 In favor of
21 Lawrence Welk's instrument
22 Spring month
23 Abbr. after a proof
24 Reuters rival
25 Grafton's "— for Innocent"
26 Dinner for Dobbin
27 Raw rock
28 Peeples or Vardalos
29 Candied vegetable
31 Plead
34 Urban transport
35 Unaccompanied
37 Wolf groups
38 Volcanic outflow
39 — years (elderly)
40 Periodic Table stat
41 Con game
42 Porridge-making bear
43 Norse god
44 Marries
46 Sailor's assent
47 Track circuit

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	O	D			J	A	M		P	R	O	D
A	R	A	P		A	M	I		L	I	V	E
S	E	M	I		B	O	G		A	D	A	M
T	O	P	A	Z		S	I	A	Y			
			N	O	S		T	R	I	P	O	D
B	A	Z	O	O	K	A		S	N	A	K	E
E	V	I	L		Y	I	N		G	L	I	B
T	I	N	E	S		D	A	B	B	L	E	S
A	D	F	S	T	F		B	O	Y			
			S	Y	N	C		P	E	C	A	N
J	U	D	O		J	O	G		A	U	R	A
I	V	A	N		O	N	E		R	E	E	S
M	A	Y	S		Y	E	T		D	A	H	

Yesterday's answer 4-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amber Heard, 28; Sherri Shepherd, 47; Jack Nicholson, 77; Glen Campbell, 78

Happy Birthday: You will attract extraordinary partners who are striving to reach similar goals. Your ability to express your desires succinctly will help to weed out anyone trying to ride on your coattails. Your focus should be on commitment and following through with your plans. Your sensitive, intuitive approach will guide you down the right path. Your numbers are 3, 18, 21, 23, 34, 37, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Changes made for the wrong reason won't get you ahead. Find alternative solutions by embracing whatever problem you face responsibly. Your strength is your ability to adapt and keep moving forward. Choose a positive course of action. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Emotions will fluctuate. A steady pace will help you reach your goal and ease a stressful situation that is causing confusion. Personal information should be kept a secret. Let your intuition lead the way when dealing with people asking you for something. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): A receptive, open approach to whatever is offered will allow you to negotiate until you get exactly what you want. Documentation will help you avoid someone reneging. Stay one step ahead and cover your back and victory will be yours. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Prepare to make amends and do whatever damage control is necessary to avoid a problem with a personal or professional partner. Finding a unique solution that appeases everyone will also re-establish your value and improve your reputation. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Live life to the fullest. Show off and use your charm to capture attention. Travel or visiting unfamiliar places will satisfy your lust for adventure. Embrace any challenge that comes your way with a positive attitude and a healthy ego. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't fall into a financial trap. Making an impulsive move regarding an investment or getting involved in a joint venture isn't likely to turn out the way you want. Focus on your relationships with others and picking up valuable information. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Acceptance and moderation will be necessary if you want to avoid arguments and interference. Spend more time working on personal improvements and building your assets. Re-evaluate your relationships with others and weed out the people who bring you down. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Rearrange your work space or make changes at home that will inspire you to invest more time in your talents and personal goals. Love is in the stars, and romance will enhance your life. Make a positive change to the way you live. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Go out with people you feel have something to offer or contribute to the goals you have set. Collaborating will lead to changes at home. Initiate a routine that will help you improve your skills and add to your expertise and knowledge. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stick close to home and don't ruffle feathers. Consistency and diplomacy will help you divert arguments that are likely to cause confusion and possible repercussions. Nurture an important relationship and revert back to solutions that have worked for you in the past. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Mull over personal, financial or medical issues that need to be resolved. A couple of insightful changes will allow you greater freedom to follow your dreams, hopes and wishes. Revive and update old goals and prepare to present what you have to offer. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Focus on yourself and the improvements you want to make. Setting a personal budget or considering new ways to present and promote what you have to offer will help you achieve financial freedom. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sociable, popular and adaptable. You are sensitive, intuitive and creative. *Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2								8
		1	7	6		3		
	6				5		2	
		2		3			1	
	3		6	2	9		4	
	7			8		9		
	4		1				9	
3		7		5	3	1		7

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	3	8	1	6	4	9	5	7
6	7	9	8	2	5	1	3	4
1	5	4	3	7	9	6	8	2
7	6	1	2	5	8	4	9	3
4	8	3	9	1	6	7	2	5
9	2	5	7	4	3	8	6	1
3	4	2	6	8	1	5	7	9
5	9	6	4	3	7	2	1	8
8	1	7	5	9	2	3	4	6

Difficulty Level ★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ARE YOU GREGARIOUS? Solution: 8 letters

F	N	Y	O	L	G	I	D	N	I	H	S	S	E	A
R	O	S	I	D	U	E	Y	T	R	A	P	K	C	F
I	E	A	G	N	I	R	U	L	L	A	U	C	I	F
E	H	E	T	I	L	A	I	C	O	S	O	O	N	E
N	C	L	H	K	W	V	G	T	E	M	R	L	T	C
D	N	P	I	C	I	A	A	E	M	B	G	F	I	T
L	U	O	N	C	D	L	R	O	N	L	R	R	E	I
Y	L	E	V	G	K	I	D	M	O	I	C	A	L	O
Y	O	P	I	A	O	A	N	W	T	U	A	Y	B	N
O	L	M	T	S	T	Y	I	N	L	E	H	L	A	A
J	I	I	E	I	E	N	T	A	E	A	E	I	E	T
N	V	N	N	V	G	Ⓝ	T	R	P	R	L	M	E	E
E	E	G	O	I	Ⓤ	E	N	P	A	G	S	A	R	E
H	E	L	P	Ⓕ	U	L	Y	O	P	E	N	F	G	R
D	N	E	L	B	S	G	N	I	R	E	H	T	A	G

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Accommodating, Affectionate, Agreeable, Alluring, Barbecue, Blend, Cheer, Circulate, Civil, Dinners, Easy, Enjoy, Family, Flocks, Friendly, Fun, Gala, Gatherings, Genial, Glowing, Greet, Groups, Hail, Happy, Hearty, Helpful, Invite, Kind, Live, Love, Luncheon, Meet, Mingle, Nice, Open, Party, People, Shindig, Socialite, Soiree, Talkative, Warm

Yesterday's Answer: Trendy

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 36, 37 or 38** call 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universalclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Household Caretaker. Must have 5 years experience. Interested applicants, please call 285-4574.

(1) Restaurant Manager/Chef: $5.55–10.00/hr. High School diploma, 4 years experience in Korean cuisine and restaurant management required. Email resume to hankyung@hanmisaipan.com.

J'S MALOTTE CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500877, Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1 Storekeeper
High School Graduate. 2 Years Experience. $5.50 p/h

Duties and Responsibilities: Attend to customers, price and stock merchandise, wipes and clean shelves and other related duties as a Storekeeper.

For inquiries please contact: 235-2427

Joeten Development Inc. *dba* Joeten Superstore is currently seeking

(1) Security Guard

Interested applicants must email a resume to hrd3@joeten.com

"I want to go shopping!"
MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

Wanted – Commercial cleaner for diving business on Rota. Five years experience, high school diploma, 2 letters of recommendation from former employers and police clearance required. Minimum salary. Call 532-3423 for interview.

Construction and Material Supply Inc. is currently seeking

(1) H.E. Operator

Interested applicants must email a resume to hrd3@joeten.com

Job Vacancy Announcement

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY INC.

(02) REGISTERED NURSE

- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI-RN License
- Attend a hemodialysis training program
- Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN)-Preferred
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system
- One to five years hemodialysis experience or related field
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- English Language Skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Must be flexible with time schedule

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up an application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on 04/25/2014 at 4:00p.m. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2905 ext. 124.

1 Carpenter

Must have at least 5 years experience
Able to work with minimum supervision and flexible schedules.

Interested applicant(s), please send resume to

Tang's Corporation
P.O. Box 502592, Saipan, MP 96950

BSEA Incorporated
has a Job Vacancy Announcement for

- **Driver** (Japanese speaking preferred)
- **Office Manager/Dispatch/Reservation** (Japanese speaking preferred)
- **Japanese Marketing Manager** (Japanese speaking required)

Interested applicants please call:
233-2732/287-2732

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Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

Hilltop Codominium
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view.
$700/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
Wi-Fi & nighttime security exduded

FEATURES:

- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
- **FREE WiFi**
- **Laundry Area**
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking**
- **24hr water**

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Tropical Leisure Sports, Inc.

P.O. Box 500157 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 233-8574 • Fax: (670) 233-0850
Email: tlssaipan@gmail.com

Job Announcement
For Qualified U.S. Citizens

Position: 1 Tour Coordinator Salary: $ 5.55/hr
Duties and Qualification Requirement:
Coordinate all incoming schedules, assist in customer tour participation, explain in Japanese for all forms needed to be read and signed. Contacting other tour company for scheduling and reservations and other related duties as assigned to. Fully able to read, write and speak fluent Japanese. Must have at least 2 years experience in tour related activities.

Position: 1 Manager, Marine Service Salary: $ 5.55/hr
Duties and Qualification Requirement:
Direct activities of boat services, according to knowledge of maintenance need of small craft and marine safety requirements. Confers with owner or crew of vessel to obtain maintenance history and details concerning condition of craft. Observes and listen to vessel in operation to detect unsafe or malfunctioning equipment and leaks or other flaws in hull and superstructure. Must be able to repair/overhaul boat engine (gasoline or diesel) and other related duties as assigned. Employer Preference: College graduate with atleast 5 years experience and must be able to perform the job duties.

Position: 1 Operations Manager Salary: $ 5.55/hr
Duties and Qualification Requirement:
Plan, direct or coordinate the operations of company, manage daily operations. Oversee activities directly related to making products or providing services. Manage staff, preparing work schedules and assigning specific duties. Coordinating with other department heads as required and other related duties as assigned to. College graduate with at least 5 years experience, preferably in managing water sports activities.

Interested applicants may submit their resume to the Marine Sports Center counter located at the beach side of Hafadai Beach Hotel not later than April 25, 2014.

SUNSHINE 100 RESORT DEV'T. CO., LTD.
is inviting individuals to apply for the following positions:

General Manager Assistant
Bachelor's degree in architecture, urban planning, or construction. At least 6 years work related experience with no less than 4 years experience in managerial or higher level position in project management, preferably in property development industry, urban planning or construction. Must have experience in real estate development, project initial planning through completion, construction planning and management including strategic planning and project analysis. Must have experience in the preparation of real-estate market reports as well as feasibility report. Requires excellent multi-tasking, organizational, interpersonal and leadership skills. Must have expertise in Word, Excel, Power Point and CAD.

Cost Controller
Bachelor's Degree in construction management engineering or accountancy. With at least 5 years work experience in construction projects or real estate development. Must have extensive experience in conducting construction budgets and contract management, construction project feasibility reports, contract and procurement policies, project cost control, engineering progress payment forecast and cost accounting. Requires excellent communication, multi-tasking, organizational and interpersonal skills. Must have expertise in the use of Excel, Microsoft software or SAP R3 Financial Controlling (FICO) system.

Design Director
Bachelor's degree in architecture, urban planning, or construction. At least 6 years work related experience preferably in architectural design in property development, urban planning or multiple building construction projects. Must have experience in real estate development, project preparation including planning and design of project. Requires excellent multi-tasking, organizational, interpersonal and leadership skills. Must have expertise in Word, Excel, Power Point, CAD, Photoshop and Sketch Up.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at SUNSHINE 100 RESORT DEV'T. CO., LTD. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., Thursday, April 24, 2014.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required.

SUNSHINE 100 RESORT DEV'T. CO., LTD. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

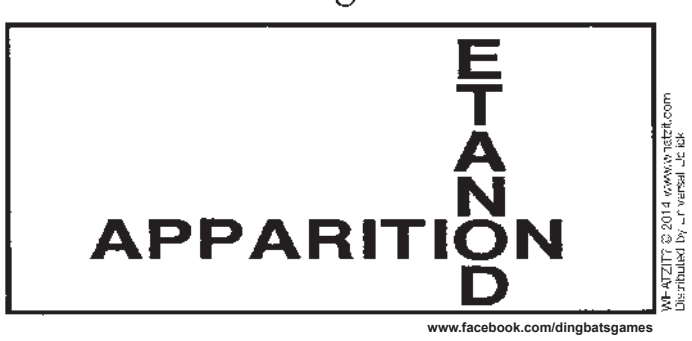
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

Aldridge leads Portland over Houston 122-120 in OT

HOUSTON (AP)—LaMarcus Aldridge had just fouled out late in overtime after scoring a career-high and franchise playoff-record 46 points when he went to Portland teammate Damian Lillard with a simple message.

"I said: 'Take it over,'" Aldridge said.

Lillard did just that, finishing with 31 points and making the go-ahead free throws in overtime to lift the Trail Blazers to a 122-120 victory over the Houston Rockets on Sunday night in a thrilling first-round series opener.

Aldridge fouled out with about a minute left in overtime and Lillard, who was making his playoff debut, scored Portland's next five points and put the Trail Blazers on top by one point with a pair of free throws with 17 seconds left.

"When you've got your best player playing like that, it fires you up," Lillard said. "When he went out of the game, I felt like our team ... had to have L.A's back and come through for him."

Joel Freeland made one of two free throws seconds after Lillard's free throws to give the Blazers the win in their first trip to the postseason since 2011.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Houston.

Aldridge, who was playing in his home state, also had 18 rebounds and two blocks.

"He's been a handful for us all year long," Houston coach Kevin McHale said. "We just didn't have any answers for him."

James Harden and Dwight Howard each scored 27 points for Houston, and Howard grabbed 15 rebounds.

Houston could have tied it, but Harden missed a short jump shot at the buzzer. He had missed a 3-pointer on Houston's second-to-last possession.

AP

Portland Trail Blazers' LaMarcus Aldridge (12) goes up for a shot against the Houston Rockets during the second half in Game 1 of an opening-round NBA basketball playoff series Sunday, April 20, 2014, in Houston.

"I've got to play better," Harden said. "I didn't shoot the ball well ... I've got to shake it off, but it will be better in Game 2."

It was a physical game with the teams combining for 79 free throws.

A three-point play by Lillard gave Portland a one-point lead with 44.5 seconds remaining. Francisco Garcia and Howard both made one of two free throws after that to give Houston a 120-119 lead 20 seconds later.

Aldridge fouled out when he knocked Patrick Beverley to the floor setting a pick with 1:04 left in overtime. An emotional Aldridge continued to yell at the referees even after he went to the bench.

"This is one of those games where I could show my team that I wanted to lead," Aldridge said.

Beverley re-injured his right knee on the play where Aldridge fouled out and McHale said the Rockets would know more about the guard's status after an MRI exam on Monday. Beverley missed eight games late in the season because of a torn meniscus in that knee.

A dunk by Robin Lopez gave Portland a 116-114 lead before he fouled out seconds later. Howard made both free throws to tie it.

Houston scored the first seven points of the fourth quarter, with the first four from Howard, to make it 86-73. But Portland used a 10-0 run, with the help of the Hack-A-Howard defense of intentionally fouling the center, to tie it at 98 with 2:46 remaining. Howard missed four straight free throws as Portland cut the deficit.

A 3-pointer by Lillard had tied it at 104-all before Harden put Houston up with two free throws. Aldridge's tip-in with 2.9 seconds left tied it at 106. Houston had a chance to win it in regulation, but Harden's shot was off.

Howard and Jeremy Lin both made three-point plays to start overtime before Aldridge and Nicolas Batum hit consecutive 3s to tie it back up.

Portland trailed by 11 when it used a 9-2 spurt to get within 73-69 with about two minutes left in the third quarter. Aldridge started the run with four points and Wesley Matthews finished it off by scoring the last five and capping it with dunk on a fast break.

The Rockets had a four-point lead early in the third quarter when Harden heated up, scoring 10 points of a 12-3 run that extended Houston's advantage to 66-53 with 7 1/2 minutes left in the period.

Wizards 102, Bulls 93

In Chicago, Nene dominated with 24 points and Trevor Ariza scored 18 as the Washington Wizards rallied from 13 points down to beat the Chicago Bulls in their playoff opener.

John Wall scored 16 in his postseason debut. Marcin Gortat added 15 points and 13 rebounds, and the fifth-seeded Wizards pulled out the victory even though they looked like they were ready to be blown out.

They cut a 13-point deficit to one in the third and trailed by three going into the fourth, before outscoring Chicago 18-6 over the final six minutes to come out on top in their first playoff appearance since 2008.

Game 2 is Tuesday.

Heat 99, Bobcats 88

In Miami, LeBron James scored 27 points, Dwyane Wade added 23 and Miami used a late charge to beat Charlotte in Game 1 of an Eastern Conference first-round series.

Chris Bosh scored 13 points and James Jones had 12 for the Heat. Game 2 of the best-of-seven series is Wednesday.

Kemba Walker scored 20 points for the Bobcats, who led by nine early and led again in the third. Al Jefferson missed eight of his final 13 shots after getting hurt in the first quarter. He finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Bobcats, who got 17 from Gary Neal and 15 from Josh McRoberts.

Miami sealed it with an 18-4 run in the fourth, all but three of those points coming with James getting a rest.

Spurs 90, Mavericks 85

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan scored 27 points, and San Antonio held Dallas to one field goal in the final seven minutes to win Game 1 of their first-round playoff series.

The Mavericks also went scoreless for 5½ minutes during that stretch, their lone field goal coming as time expired.

Tony Parker had 21 points, and Manu Ginobili added 17. Kawhi Leonard had 11 points and 10 rebounds and Tiago Splitter pulled down 11 rebounds for top-seeded San Antonio, which has won 10 straight against Dallas.

Devin Harris scored 19 points for the Mavericks, who nearly pulled off a huge upset.

Kuchar rallies, chips in for RBC Heritage win

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP)—Matt Kuchar overcame a four-stroke deficit to finally finish on top, when his stunning chip-in on the 18th hole gave him a 64 and a victory at the RBC Heritage on Sunday.

Kuchar was four shots behind Luke Donald at the start but made that up with seven birdies on his first 10 holes. He had a birdie putt of less than eight feet at the par-3 17th, but three-putted for bogey to fall into a tie for first.

Kuchar was in more trouble in a bunker at Harbour Town Golf Links' closing lighthouse hole. That's when he blasted out and watched the ball rattle in for birdie. Kuchar punched the air and raised his arms in celebration of what would be his seventh career PGA Tour win.

Donald had two holes to catch Kuchar after the chip but couldn't do it. He missed a 28-foot birdie putt at the 17th hole, then saw his own try at a chip-in birdie slide past the cup.

Kuchar finished at 11-under 273 to win $1.044 million and his first trophy since the Memorial last June.

Kuchar has spent a month of Sundays in the thick of things, only to come up short. He was two strokes behind winner Steven Bowditch at the Texas Open on March 30, lost a playoff to Matt Jones' 42-yard chip-in on the first extra hole in Houston the next week, then was tied for the lead at Augusta National last Sunday before four-putting the fourth hole and finishing tied for fifth.

Donald shot 69 to finish at 10 under and earn his fifth top-three finish in his past six appearances at the RBC Heritage.

Ben Martin, who turned pro in 2010, shot 67 to finish tied for third at 9 under with John Huh, who shot 68.

At sixth in the world, Kuchar was the highest-ranked player competing the week after the season's first major, when most of golf's biggest names were taking a needed break.

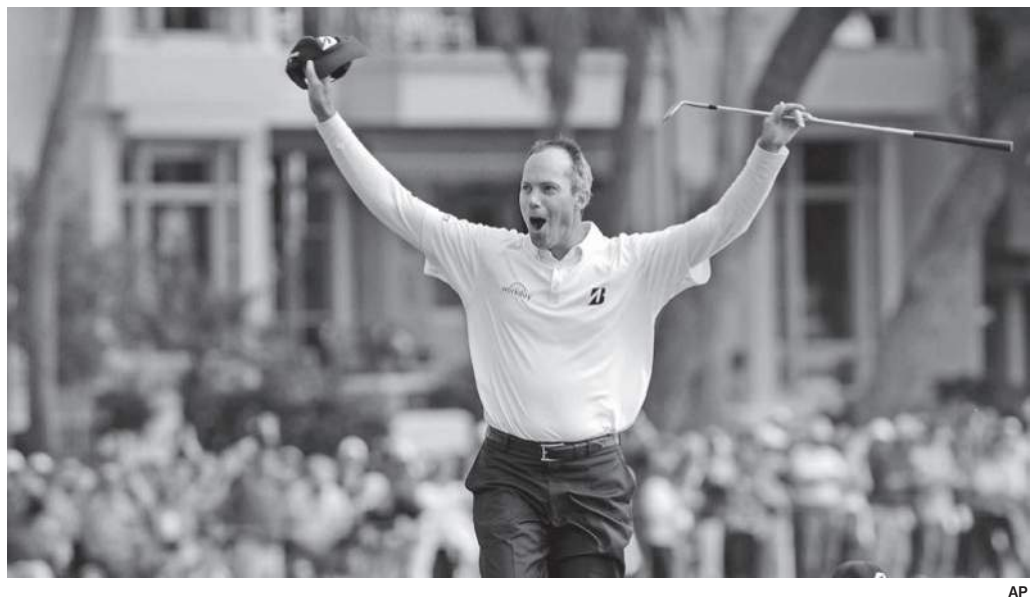
But Kuchar, smiling all the way, hoped to ride the momentum of his near misses.

Sunday finally brought the sunshine the tournament had lacked all week. Players got the bonus of easy, softened greens from three days of moisture.

The birdies were flying from the start, and Kuchar took full advantage.

That Donald was in the chase again here was no surprise. The steady Englishman, once No. 1 in the world, says Harbour Town's tight fairways and small greens are a perfect layout for a player like him who isn't the longest hitter on tour.

Donald drove his ball way left out of bounds on the sixth hole for a double bogey and, after climbing back into the hunt with birdies on the seventh and ninth, hooked his drive into the water left on No. 10 for a bogey.



AP

Matt Kuchar celebrates making birdie out of the bunker on the 18th green to win the final round of the RBC Heritage golf tournament in Hilton Head Island, S.C., Sunday, April 20, 2014.

Donald kept charging, though, and drew within a stroke of Kuchar's lead with consecutive birdies on the 11th and 12th holes. He could get no closer, finishing his round with six pars.

Martin, who had missed seven cuts in his past eight tournaments, reached 10 under with back-to-back birdies on the 13th and 14th holes.

Martin's run ended when he couldn't squeeze through some pine trees after driving into the rough at the par-5 15th. His ball struck a tree and scooted into more trouble across the fairway. He took bogey to drop two shots off the lead.

WSox 3 HRs, throw 2-hitter in 16-2 win at Texas

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Jose Abreu and Jordan Danks each had two-run homers and Erik Johnson combined with three relievers on a two-hitter as the Chicago White Sox ended a four-game losing streak with a 16-2 victory Sunday over the Texas Rangers.

The White Sox went ahead with three unearned runs off Robbie Ross (1-1) in the fifth, including Abreu's fifth homer of the season for a 5-2 lead.

Johnson (1-1) allowed two runs and only a single over his five innings, but the right-hander walked the leadoff batter the first four innings and threw only 44 of his 87 pitches for strikes. The Rangers also scored on a wild pitch, and had another runner thrown out trying to do the same.

Ronald Belisario threw two scoreless innings before Andre Rienzo and Matt Lindstrom each worked an inning.

Marcus Semien had four hits, including a bases-loaded triple, while Abreu added two doubles to his homer. The White Sox had 18 hits and a season high in runs after scoring a combined 12 runs their previous six games.

Yankees 5, Rays 1, 12 innings

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Dean Anna drew a bases-loaded walk on a full-count pitch with two outs in the 12th inning and Carlos Beltran followed with a two-run single as the Yankees beat Tampa Bay for a split of a wild four-game series.

Yangervis Solarte was walked by Heath Bell (0-1) to open the 12th. After failing twice to bunt against C.J. Riefenhauser, Brett Gardner reached on a fielder's choice and went to third on Brian McCann's two-out single. Jacoby Ellsbury was intentionally walked before Anna checked his swing to complete an eight-pitch at-bat and score the go-ahead run.

Beltran had his hit off Josh Leuke before Alfonso Soriano added an RBI single that made it 5-1.

Preston Claiborne (1-0) went two scoreless innings for the Yankees.

Red Sox 6, Orioles 5

In Boston, Dustin Pedroia scored from third on left fielder David Lough's throwing error with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting the Boston Red Sox to a 6-5 comback win over Baltimore Orioles.

Jonny Gomes hit a three-run homer for the Red Sox, who overcame a 5-0 deficit and improved to 4-5 in Fenway Park where they went 53-28 last season.

Adam Jones had three singles and a double, and Nelson Cruz hit a solo homer to spark a three-run first inning for the Orioles.

Boston can take three of four when the series concludes with Monday's traditional 11 a.m. Patriots' Day start.

Edward Mujica (1-1) got one out for the win while Brian Matusz (1-1) suffered the loss.

Athletics 4, Astros 1

In Oakland, California, Josh Donaldson homered and doubled twice to back another solid start by Jesse Chavez, helping the Athletics beat the Astros to complete a series sweep.

Jed Lowrie and Eric Sogard added two hits apiece for the A's, who have won 11 of 13.

Chavez (1-0) allowed four hits over six innings and retired seven of the final eight batters he faced after giving up a solo home run to Marwin Gonzalez in the fourth.

Gonzalez had two hits for the Astros. Houston has dropped seven straight.

Donaldson hit a two-run home run off Houston starter Brad Peacock (0-2) in the first and added an RBI double in the seventh. He also had a two-out double in the fifth.

Twins 8, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Phil Hughes ended a personal losing streak that dated to last July, pitching into the seventh inning and helping the Twins top the Royals to avoid a three-game sweep.

Hughes (1-1), who signed a $24 million, three-year deal in December, allowed an RBI single to Omar Infante in the fifth and a two-run homer to Alcides Escobar in the seventh while winning for the first time in 17 appearances. He had lost eight games since that victory on July 2 for the Yankees.

Josmil Pinto homered and Trevor Plouffe and Kurt Suzuki each drove in a pair of runs for the Twins, who battered Yordano Ventura (1-1).

The loss ended Kansas City's five-game winning streak.

Tigers 2, Angels 1

In Detroit, Rick Porcello pitched seven sharp innings, and the Tigers took advantage of four errors in a victory over the Angels.

Three of those errors came on one play in the first inning, allowing Detroit's Ian Kinsler to score from first on a walk. Then in the sixth, Angels catcher Hank Conger threw wildly to first trying to pick off Austin Jackson. It was his second error of the game, and Jackson went to second.

Nick Castellanos followed with an RBI single to put Detroit ahead 2-1.

Porcello (2-1) allowed a run and five hits, striking out four and walking one.

Hector Santiago (0-3) allowed two unearned runs and two hits in 5 2-3 innings.

AP

Chicago White Sox's Adam Dunn (44) congratulates Jose Abreu (79) on his two-run home run off a pitch from Texas Rangers starting pitcher Robbie Ross that scored Marcus Semien in the fifth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, April 20, 2014, in Arlington, Texas.

Indians 6, Blue Jays 4

In Cleveland, David Murphy hit a three-run double in the sixth inning and John Axford worked out of bases-loaded jam in the ninth, lifting the Indians to a win over the Blue Jays.

Cleveland entered the sixth trailing 4-2, but reliever Aaron Loup (1-1) walked the bases loaded before Murphy delivered a line drive past third base that kicked off the stands and caromed into shallow left field, allowing all three runners to score.

Axford, the fourth Cleveland reliever, loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth before retiring Edwin Encarnacion on a groundout for his sixth save.

Josh Outman (3-0) recorded the final out of the sixth.

Mets 4. Braves 3

In New York, Curtis Granderson hit a sacrifice fly in the 14th inning to help the New York Mets outlast the Atlanta Braves and prevent a three-game sweep.

David Wright had four hits and New York took advantage of three early errors by Atlanta, which had won seven of eight. Granderson went 0 for 6 with an error and was booed all afternoon, but turned those jeers to cheers at the end of a long day.

Kirk Nieuwenhuis drew a leadoff walk from Gus Schlosser (0-1) and advanced on Ruben Tejada's sacrifice bunt. Eric Young Jr. was intentionally walked to bring up Granderson, hitless in his last 16 at-bats and stuck in a 4-for-44 slide.

The runners moved up on a wild pitch, and Granderson lifted the next delivery into medium left field. Nieuwenhuis slid home ahead of Justin Upton's throw, and the Mets mobbed Granderson near first base.

Jose Valverde (1-0) worked a scoreless inning for the win, hours after he was demoted from his closer role in favor of Kyle Farnsworth.

Brewers 3, Pirates 2, 14 innings

In Pittsburgh, Khris Davis delivered the biggest hit in a game interrupted by a punch-filled brawl, homering in the 14th inning to lift Milwaukee.

Ryan Braun hit a tying home run in the ninth for Milwaukee.

Brewers center fielder Carlos Gomez, Pirates outfielder Travis Snider and Milwaukee bench coach Jerry Narron were ejected after the third-inning fracas.

The problems started when Gomez paused at the plate and flipped his bat after hitting a two-out triple. Gerrit, who was near third base backing up the play, stormed toward Gomez and they exchanged words. Gomez took a couple steps toward Cole before players rushed the field from both dugouts. Milwaukee's Martin Maldonado threw a punch that knocked off Snider's hat.

The Brewers won their third in a row and sent Pittsburgh to its third straight loss.

Davis hit his first homer, connecting for a leadoff shot against Jeanmar Gomez (0-1).

Zach Duke (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings and Francisco Rodriguez got his seventh save.

Nationals 3, Cardinals 2

In Washington, Denard Span hit a sacrifice fly in the ninth inning as Washington, with Bryce Harper back in the lineup, rallied past St. Louis.

The Nationals loaded the bases in the ninth against Seth Maness (0-1) when Danny Espinosa singled with one out for his third hit, Jose Lobaton singled through the right side of the infield and pinch hitter Nate McLouth walked.

In his second game since being activated from the seven-day disabled list following a concussion, Span lofted a fly to left field. Espinosa easily beat the throw from John Jay, who shifted over from right field as St. Louis used a five-man infield.

Harper started in left field and went 1 for 4 with his first stolen base of the season. The two-time All-Star was pulled from the game a day earlier for what manager Matt Williams called a "lack of hustle."

Rafael Soriano (1-0) pitched one inning for the win.

Reds 8, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Homer Bailey pitched six scoreless innings for his first win of the season and Jay Bruce homered and doubled as Cincinnati won for the 17th time in its last 19 games at Wrigley Field.

Zack Cozart hit a two-run homer for Cincinnati, which took two of three this weekend from the Cubs.

Bailey (1-1) struck out eight while allowing six hits and three walks.

The Reds have won 10 straight when Bailey faces the Cubs. He is 7-0 in his last 10 outings against Chicago and 5-0 in his past six at Wrigley Field.

The Cubs have lost six of their last seven.

Carlos Villanueva (1-4) was tagged for five runs and nine hits in 4 2-3 innings.

Dodgers 4, Diamondbacks 1

In Los Angeles, Yasiel Puig hit a three-run homer and threw out a runner at second base, leading Los Angeles over Arizona.

Puig flipped his bat after connecting to cap a four-run sixth inning. His second homer of the season came after a two-out intentional walk to Adrian Gonzalez.

Dodgers starter Josh Beckett pitched five innings of one-hit ball, striking out seven and walking two.

Jamey Wright (1-0) got three outs for his 93rd career victory, spread over 19 big league seasons and 10 different clubs.

The Dodgers won on manager Don Mattingly's 53rd birthday.

Josh Collmenter (0-2) gave up Puig's homer.

Giants 4, Padres 3

In San Diego, Buster Posey hit a two-run home run and Tim Lincecum earned his first victory of the season for San Francisco, which had only three hits in ending a three-game losing streak.

Padres pitchers retired 23 of the final 24 batters and the Giants didn't get a hit after the second inning.

The Giants had scored only one run in each of their previous three games.

Lincecum (1-1) was chased by Nick Hundley's first homer of the season, on the first pitch of the seventh inning that pulled the Padres to 4-3. Lincecum allowed three runs and seven hits, struck out seven and walked three. Sergio Romo pitched the ninth for his fifth save in as many chances.

Padres starter Robbie Erlin (1-2) took the loss.

Phillies 10, Rockies 9

In Denver, Jimmy Rollins homered early, then hit a go-ahead single in the eighth inning that sent Philadelphia past Colorado.

Rollins finished with three hits as the Phillies averted a series sweep. Ryan Howard added four hits, including a homer and triple while driving in three runs.

Rockies star outfielder Carlos Gonzalez exited early because of a sore left knee. He appeared to tweak it running out a high chopper to end the sixth inning.

Justin Morneau homered and drove in five runs for the Rockies. The teams combined for 30 hits, 15 for extra bases.

Jake Diekman (2-1) got the win despite allowing two runs in 1 1-3 innings. Jonathan Papelbon earned his fifth save in six chances.

Matt Belisle (0-2) gave up Rollins' single that broke an 8-all tie.

Marlins 3, Mariners 2

In Miami, Adeiny Hechavarria hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the eighth inning after an instant replay went in Miami's favor and the Marlins completed a three-game sweep.

Mike Dunn (1-2) picked up the win in relief and Steve Cishek pitched the ninth for his third save of the season and 32nd in a row.

Tom Wilhelmsen (0-1) took the loss for the Mariners, who dropped their sixth straight.

In the bottom of the eighth, Christian Yelich was ruled safe at home after plate umpire Ed Hickox initially ruled him out on a force play. First baseman Justin Smoak threw home on a grounder by Garrett Jones.

Marlins manager Mike Redmond challenged the call. It was overturned after a delay of 2 minutes, 20 seconds. Replays showed Yelich slid in safely tying the game at 2.

With the bases loaded and one out, Hechavarria followed with a sacrifice fly to right field against Wilhelmsen.

Broncos gather for 1st time since Super Bowl flop

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—No trip to the White House, diamond-encrusted rings or ticker tape parade.

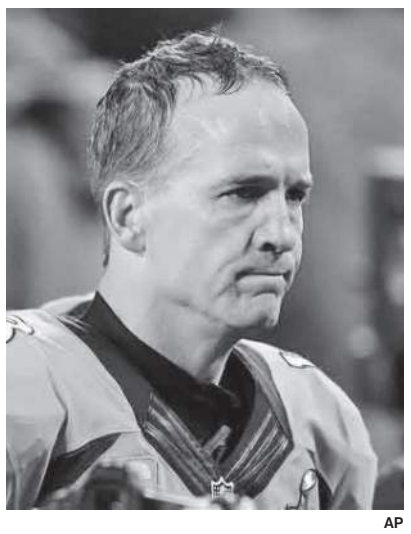
All the Denver Broncos have to show for their historic 2013 season is the heartache and humiliation of getting destroyed from the opening snap at the Super Bowl.

The AFC champs aim to use that 43-8 shellacking by Seattle as motivation for 2014 starting Monday when they gather for the start of offseason workouts, stars Peyton Manning and Von Miller say.

They realize what a daunting task awaits them as they try to become the first team since the 1972 Miami Dolphins to win the Super Bowl the year after losing it.

Crews have turned the team's headquarters into a construction zone over the last three months with a makeover that will include the addition of an indoor practice complex, and, fittingly, general manager John Elway has taken a sledgehammer to his roster, too.

Gone are veterans Champ Bailey, Robert Ayers, Eric Decker, Knowshon Moreno, Zane Beadles, Wesley Woodyard, Shaun Philips and Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie along with Chris Kuper, who retired.



AP

In this Feb. 2, 2014 file photo, Denver Broncos' Peyton Manning walks off the field after the NFL Super Bowl XLVIII football game against the Seattle Seahawks in East Rutherford, N.J.

Their departures made room for Aqib Talib, T.J. Ward, DeMarcus Ware and Emmanuel Sanders.

Despite becoming the first NFL team to score more than 600 points, behind Manning's record 55 TD throws, the Broncos surrendered a whopping 24.9 points a game - 25.3 if you count the playoffs - and Elway focused on fixing that this offseason.

He added two thumpers in the secondary and Miller will be back from a torn ACL, while refusing to re-sign players who would have cost him too much to keep around.

After all, big paydays loom for the likes of Demaryius Thomas and Julius Thomas. Both of them attended Manning's annual week of workouts at Duke recently along with Wes Welker, Bubba Caldwell and Sanders.

"That's kind of the new rules now. You have to go off-campus in early April in order to get some work with your receivers," Manning said. "It was a good kick-start to the offseason."

Manning also created a bit of a stir by heading to Tuscaloosa, Ala., a couple of weeks ago to pick the brain of Alabama coach Nick Saban, who in turn picked up pointers from the five-time MVP on the hurry-up offense that has so troubled the Crimson Tide of late.

Because Broncos offensive coordinator Adam Gase, who got his coaching start under Saban back in the 1990s, visited Alabama's football facilities at the same time, the NFL is looking into the matter. League rules prohibit players and their coaches from meeting before the start of offseason workouts.

Saban told The Denver Post, however, that he never met with Gase and Manning at the same time, other than to say pleasantries.

The first two weeks of voluntary offseason workouts at NFL team headquarters are limited to strength and conditioning and rehabilitation activities. After that, on-field instruction in allowed.

A lot of players have already been working out at Dove Valley, including Miller, left tackle Ryan Clady (foot) and cornerback Chris Harris Jr. (knee), all of whom were sideline spectators at the Super Bowl.

Even though he realizes many Broncos fans would just as soon forget the Super Bowl, Miller doesn't share their sentiments.

"I wouldn't want to get the sour taste out too quick because the year before we lost to the Ravens and that pushed us this last season. And the Super Bowl this year I think it will just push us more," Miller said. "We were right there. We were right on the edge of it and all the guys have been putting in that extra 1 percent in and hopefully it'll pay off for us this coming season."

IN PIC HAFA ADAI 5K

$2K worth of sports equipment at stake

The Division of Youth Services and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will be awarding about $2,000 worth of sports equipment to schools with the most entrants in the PIC Hafa Adai 5K this Saturday.

Two schools in the elementary division and one each in the junior high and high school will each receive $500 worth of equipment.

Meanwhile, the 5K race this weekend has attracted around 380 runners and organizers are expected the number to go over 400 before the end of the week.

The Hafa Adai 5K will have participants passing through four coloring stations along the 5K route. Volunteers will celebrate each participant's arrival with a splash of blue, yellow, pink, or red colored cornstarch. This biodegradable and non-toxic mixture will have participants laughing all the way from station to station.

Entry forms are available at the PIC front Desk and at Saipan Shell Stations. Entry fees are only $10 and the first 500 paid entries will receive a free limited edition event shirt. Proceeds from the Hafa Adai 5K will go to the CNMI Salvation Army. For more information, contact Dennis Tababa at dennis.tababa@picsaipan.com or call 237-5147. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

NBA: Refs missed foul call in Warriors-Clippers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The NBA said referees missed a foul call late in the Warriors' Game 1 win that would have given the Clippers a chance to tie the score.

Los Angeles point guard Chris Paul lost the ball out of bounds with 18.9 seconds left Saturday and Golden State leading 107-105. Rod Thorn, the league's president for basketball operations, said in a statement Sunday that the Warriors' Draymond Green should have been whistled for a foul, which would have given Paul two free throws.

Instead, Golden State got the ball and went on to win 109-105 in Los Angeles to open the first-round playoff series.

Officials reviewed the video after the ball went out of bounds and awarded possession to the Warriors. Thorn said that decision was correct, but the foul was missed moments earlier. Referees are not allowed to check for fouls when they use replay.

Clippers coach Doc Rivers commended the league for admitting the error.

"A mistake happened on their end, but we made our own mistakes," he said Sunday. "We have to take ownership of that."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	11	8	.579	—
Toronto	10	9	.526	1
Boston	9	10	.474	2
Tampa Bay	9	10	.474	2
Baltimore	8	9	.471	2
Central Division				
Detroit	9	6	.600	—
Kansas City	9	8	.529	1
Minnesota	9	9	.500	1½
Chicago	9	10	.474	2
Cleveland	8	10	.444	2½
West Division				
Oakland	13	5	.722	—
Texas	11	8	.579	2½
Los Angeles	8	10	.444	5
Seattle	7	11	.389	6
Houston	5	14	.263	8½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	12	6	.667	—
Washington	11	8	.579	1½
New York	9	9	.500	3
Miami	9	10	.474	3½
Philadelphia	8	10	.444	4
Central Division				
Milwaukee	14	5	.737	—
St. Louis	11	8	.579	3
Cincinnati	8	10	.444	5½
Pittsburgh	8	11	.421	6
Chicago	5	12	.294	8
West Division				
Los Angeles	12	7	.632	—
San Francisco	11	8	.579	1
Colorado	10	10	.500	2½
San Diego	9	10	.474	3
Arizona	5	16	.238	8

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JETS

From Page 28

three players going at bat in each of the first five innings. Camacho then struck out four batters and his teammates caught six fly balls, as the Red Sox only reached base once in that stretch. Joe Tyquenco was the lone Red Sox to make it to base at the bottom of the third, advancing to first off a hit by pitch before Jesse Brel caught him stealing second base.

Earlier at the top of the second, Brel hit a two-run triple and also reached home off K.J. Deleon Guerrero's single to lift the Jets to a 4-0 lead. The other run was courtesy of Deleon Guerrero, who scored at the top of the first off a Red Sox's miscue.

The Jets then stretched the lead to 7-0 off Devyn Flores Flores' RBI single and run from a wild pitch in the fifth inning and Brel's run from the error of Red Sox first baseman Bradley Lieto at the top of the sixth.

At the bottom of the sixth, the Red Sox finally ended their drought when Jhace Palacios scored. Palacios led off for the pennant champions and singled. He then stole second and third base before reaching home when Jets catcher Franco Nakamura fumbled. The Red Sox had a chance to get another run in that inning when Tyquenco also hit a single and stole second base, however, he went back to the dugout on a double play with Camacho striking out third batter Henry Lizama and Nakamura throwing to third baseman Franklin Lizama for the tag out on the Red Sox runner. Another strikeout from Camacho wrapped up the sixth inning.

At the top of the seventh, the Jets gained two more runs off Franklin Lizama's sacrifice and Brel's RBI double, while the Red Sox failed to launch one final comeback at the bottom to lose their finals bid for the second straight time in one week. The Red Sox saw a bad omen at the start of the last inning when Camacho struck out leadoff batter Jobe Reyes and the Jets went on to end the former's season after catching back-to-back fly balls.

The Jets versus Braves title duel will be played this Saturday afternoon after the Junior League finals match between the JPO Enforcers and Comets. In the Big League, the Padres are in the finals and will be battling the winner of the rubber match between the Braves and the Fielders.

8 SAIPAN

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Jr. (2:00:21), 30 to 39's Wataru Takaku (1:49:43), and over 60's Shoji Tsushima (1:47:39).

Japanese, Chinese split wins

In the marathon event (42.195K), Japanese and Chinese runners shared top honors.

Shoutaro Miwa won it for Japan when he topped the men's division with his time of 2:36:21. He finished ahead of China's Shuai Xu (3:01:55), fellow Japanese Yoshiharu Sugimoto (3:03:58), Yukihiro Okada (3:32:27) and Naoki Yamamoto (3:35:29), and Saipan's Steven Johnson (3:49:38).

In the women's division, China's Zhiling Zheng and Kaiquin Zhang had a Top 2 finish after recording 3:04:55 and 3:17:08. Completing the Top 6 were Japan's Mayumi Uichiyama (3:53:20), Kaoru Mito (3:55:14), Yuri Kimuro (4:05:53), and Chiemi Saito (4:29:51).

In the women's age group category, the first place finishers were all Japanese. Shoko Kageyawa ruled the 20 to 29 division after posting 4:52:35; Tomoko Sugimoto (4:44:48) prevailed in the 30 to 39; Wakako Hoshina (4:30:15) won in the 40 to 49; Kiyo Tajima (5:032:23) reigned supreme in the 50 to 59; and Reiko Hirosawa (5:40:51) triumphed in the over 60.

In the men's division, the age group champions were 15 to 19's Terence Leung (5:15:23), 20 to 29's Sangji Kim (4:19:31), 30 to 39's Tomoyasu Tominaga (3:51:45), 40 to 49's Kozo Yamada (3:58:39), 50 to 59's Hisahi Matsuura (4:11:17), and Saipan and over 60's Chang Whan Jang (3:57:15).

4 BARGE

From Page 28

Tuttle recorded two wins over the weekend to gain the finals seat at the top half of the girls U10 singles draw. She was first paired against Riko Ojima last Friday and won, 6-2, before pulling off an upset over the top-ranked and Riko's sister, Hana in the semis, 7-6 (7-3), last Sunday. Hana marched into the semis after a 6-1 win over Shaira Valle, a 6-3 victor against Erie Kare Ortega.

At the bottom half of the draw, Gregoire started her bid with a 6-1 victory over Ellie Epley last Friday before beating Maaya Sato in the semis, 6-3. Sato entered the semifinals after Tiara Imar retired due to injury with the latter ahead, 3-2.

In the girls U14 singles, second-ranked Ishikawa swept her foes to clinch the finals ticket in the lower bracket. She recorded her first victory against Malika Miyawaki, 6-3, 6-3, and the second versus Mimi Sakano in the semifinals, 6-2, 6-2. Sakano moved into the semis after a 6-1, 6-1 win over Grace Choi.

In the upper bracket, Heras topped Ami Tsukagoshi in the quarterfinals, 6-3, 6-0, and eliminated No. 1 seed Tania Tan in the semis, 6-2, 6-2, to set up a finals duel against Ishikawa. Tan advanced to the semis, following a 6-0, 6-1 demolition of Conatsu Kaga.

Meanwhile, two other girls singles events were played over the weekend with both the U12 and U18 age groups having round-robin format. In the girls U12 singles, Coume Kaga and Jireh Warren won their opening matches against a similar foe. Coume slipped past Sablan, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, while Warren nailed a straight set victory over the latter, 7-6 (7-3), 6-1. Coume and Warren will collide this weekend to decide the division winner.

In the girls U18 singles matches, which were played at Kanoa Resort, Mikayla Lopez and Thea Minor downed Negahr Rastguiy. Lopez cruised past Rastguiy, 6-1, 6-1, while Minor also took only two sets to defeat the latter, 6-0, 6-3.

Meanwhile, results of the girls and boys doubles matches will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Wednesday edition.

2014 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The MISO All-Stars players pose with their medals and trophy during the awards ceremony for the 2014 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament held late last month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Also in the photo are, front row from left, Settsu Red Impulse head coach Susumu Sakaguchi, Division of Youth Services' Vivian Sablan, and Rep. Edmund Villagomez.

Settsu Red Impulse and Marianas High School players enjoy a light moment at the awards ceremony.

Players and coaches of Notre Dame (Guam) pose with their third place medals.

Notre Dame players and their coach receive medals and a trophy after beating the MISO All-Stars in the finals.

Coach Francis San Nicolas, second row left, poses with his MISO All-Stars players, who finished second in the girls division.

Coach Preston Basa, right, joins his MHS Lady Dolphins for a group photo.

The top players from each participating team receive gifts from organizers and sponsors of the tournament.

Volunteers of the tournament pose for a photo at the completion of the three-day event.

The MHS Dolphins pose with their runner-up medals and trophy.

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Jets ease way to Senior League finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Jets dominated pennant champions Red Sox in a playoff game, 9-1, to barge into the finals of the Senior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Nathan Camacho pitched in no relief and had a two-hitter in the easy victory that arranged the Jets' title showdown against early finalists Tanapag Braves. The Braves, who advanced to last year's finals and lost to the deposed champions Fielders, took the first finals berth after a 6-1 triumph over the Red Sox.

The Red Sox failed to march into the finals in their second attempt, as they were neutralized by the Jets' defense, particularly Camacho, who allowed no hits in the first five innings before giving up back-to-back singles at the bottom of the sixth inning.

With Camacho on the mound and the rest of the Jets defenders holding their ground, the Red Sox had only

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Jets' Nathan Camacho throws a pitch, while a Red Sox runner stays back at second base during the bottom of the sixth inning of their playoff game in the Senior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

4 barge into CNMI jr. tennis finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four female players notched finals berth in their respective divisions in the 2014 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships after Week 1 games were completed at the Pacific Islands Club hard court over the weekend.

Making it to the finalists list were girls U10 singles' Erika Tuttle and Maria Gregoire and U14's Isabel Heras and Julia Ishikawa.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Grace Choi, Mimi Sakano, Ami Tsukagoshi, and Malika Miyawaki pose for a group photo after their girls U14 doubles match in the 2014 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

8 Saipan runners make grade

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Eight Saipan entries in the half marathon event of the 2014 Saipan Marathon had notable finishes in last Saturday's competition.

In the men's overall ranking, the host's Jessie James and Peter Prestley made it to the Top 6. James placed fourth after completing the race from Micro Beach to the southern parking lot of Pacific Islands Club and back (21.0975 kilometers) in 1:38:03, while Prestley was ranked fifth after logging 1:41:34. The two Saipan runners finished behind China's Haikun Zhang (1:23:19) and Wei Zhang (1:24:03) and Japan's Junichi Yamamoto (1:26:10) and ahead of Japan's Kazuhiko Fujii (1:44:09).

In the women's division, Lorie Hutchison took third place behind China's Zhixuan Li (1:27:03) and Japan's Erina Okumura (1:39:33) after registering 1:43:06, while fellow Saipan runner Akiko Miller also barged into the Top 6 with a fourth-best time of 1:44:34. Rounding out the Top 6 were Japanese Yoshida Mayumi (1:51:05) and Norie Kosaka (1:51:27).

In the age group category, Saipan's Sakiko Eda ruled the 40 to 49 division after cutting the tape at the 1:56:53 mark. She had the fastest time among the age group top finishers in the women's division. Other top finishers were 20 to 29's Chigusa Kato (2:08:20), 30 to 39's Yukiko Inaba (2:15:57), 50 to 59's Masumi Miyamoto (2:07:51), and over 60's Etsuko Hirayama (2:09:02).

In the men's age group division, Saipan got three top finishes with Ronald Villafria logging the best time at 1:46:39 to win the 40 to 49 category. He came ahead of 15 to 19 champion Jake Lee (1:54:16) and 50-59 winner Florence Antonio (1:54:32). Completing the winners list in the age group division were U14's Kanaru Shimizu (2:31:29), 20 to 29's Rufino Aquino

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Florence Antonio raises his arms in triumph after ruling the 50 to 59 age group of the half marathon event in last Saturday's 2014 Saipan Marathon.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO